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WEEKLY BULLETIN

Forest Service - Washington Office

(Not for Publication)

November 15, 1917.

Initiation and Purpose of the Bulletin

It is planned to get out, for the benefit of all members of the Forest Service and for the information of those now engaged in war duties, a brief weekly summary of the more important matters which come up in the Washington office. The permanence of the plan will depend on the usefulness of the Bulletin. One of the objects sought is to promote better teamwork throughout the Service. Those who are located far afield from the central office, and whose business is with the execution rather than the making of general plans, may gain a larger perspective and better realization of the common task through knowledge of such matters as can be told of in the Bulletin. To the end that it may do its best for all, suggestions are invited from all.

This, the first issue, covers the period Nov. 1-14 and consequently exceeds the projected size.

Information contained in this bulletin is not for general circulation outside the Forest Service, and discretion should be used in communicating its contents to outsiders. It is a family affair, so to speak, not a collection of news items to give to the newspapers.

The Forest Service and the War

Mr. Potter returned November 5 from a month's field trip, undertaken primarily to acquaint himself with the effects of war conditions on the Districts. In general, he found the work well in hand and the Forest Service organization shaking down into shape again. While the drain of men has been heavy and the readjustment problems difficult, the work has not so far been materially curtailed, but if more men are drawn from the force the lack of available men to replace them will create a situation which will be very hard to meet. The labor troubles in the Northwest are hampering materially the timber-sale business, and the severe drouth in the Southwest is creating a serious livestock situation. Both have an important relation to the country's war problems.

The ambulance fund has reached a total of $3,545. The principal disbursements have been: For ambulances and kitchen trailers, $2,836.39, and for wool, $553.05, of which $234 has gone for wool shipped to the 6 Western Districts for knitting.

A Woman's Committee for the Tenth and Twentieth Engineers (Forest) has been organized with Mrs. Graves as chairman. It is expected that the comforts and welfare work for the Forest Regiments will from now on center in this committee. Auxiliary groups in the Districts have been suggested.

Mrs. Houston, the wife of Secretary Houston, has called a meeting of women employees and wives of men employees of the Department, to organize voluntary war work on the most comprehensive basis.

A Christmas gift from the Washington office of the Forest Service to the Tenth Engineers was got off November 14, comprising 126 knitted garments of which 94 were sweaters, 164 bags of Bull Durham, 75 cans and 18 packages of other smoking tobacco, 2,500 cigarettes, and miscellaneous articles.

The first two battalions of the 20th Engineers were reviewed by the Secretary of War on November 10, in anticipation of their early departure. They were a fine, husky-looking lot, who had plainly caught the spirit of military discipline and were ready.

The officers include no Forest Service men but are mostly lumbermen and engineers from the training camps. With the large number of technical foresters in the Tenth, it was thought best to even up by giving preference to lumbermen, adjustments between units to be made in France if found advisable. It is uncertain what proportion of technical foresters will be commissioned in future battalions.

The use of supplementary service battalions made up of skilled workers will with proper direction, it is believed, make it possible to diminish the drain upon the lumber industry, which is already short of men.

The demand for aeroplane stock has created a spruce emergency on the Pacific Coast which may necessitate the use of forest battalions there. If so, both Forest Service men and lumbermen will be needed as officers. The Forest Service has been in conference with the Signal Corps and has suggested the use of some of the men recommended for the Twentieth.

Everything emphasizes the wisdom of keeping the Service organization intact to meet these constant and unexpected demands.

The Signal Corps has asked for assistance in the preparation of purchase specifications for propeller woods. The primary object is to reduce handling through a right selection at the source of supply. To give this assistance Mr. J. A. Newlin of the Forest Products Laboratory recently spent a few days in Washington.

The Forest Products Laboratory of the Forest Service, upon the request of the American Bureau of Shipping, is now revising the rules of the Bureau governing the use of wood in ships. The Bureau of Shipping is an organization representing shipbuilders, ship owners, and marine insurance companies, like the Lloyd's Agency in England. Its classification of ships governs the rating on which insurance depends; hence its rules have a very important influence in all shipbuilding in the United States. The present building program of the Emergency Fleet Corporation is governed by the rules of the Bureau practically in the same way as is construction for private corporations. The Forest Service will therefore exercise an important influence upon the technique of the emergency construction.

Representatives of the Service consulted with the Naval Constructor in charge of the Navy Yard at Philadelphia regarding the design of four kilns under construction on the principles worked out with the Forest Products Laboratory. They also discussed the proper methods of storing lumber kiln-dried for use in airplanes, inspected a shipment of Sitka spruce to be used in hydro-airplane and flying boat construction, and gave some assistance in the matter of specifications for veneered material to be used in pontoon construction.

The Geological Survey has made informal inquiry as to what supply of men and instruments the Forest Service might be able to furnish them for use in topographic survey work for the War Department. A survey of our resources is being undertaken.

Mr. Bentley has received his commission as Captain in the Quartermaster's Corps, and been called to duty. His position as Chief of Maintenance is being filled by Mr. Shannon.

Some Grazing Matters

Mr. Barnes returned November 5 from a five months' field trip. He reports that about 75,000 head of sheep grazed this summer on range made accessible at the head of Lake Chelan by building a barge with a capacity of 2,700 head of sheep. The barge was built by the stockmen at the suggestion of the Forest Service, and conveys the sheep from the foot of the Lake to its head, some 50 miles, where they land right on high summer range that could not otherwise be reached. Adjoining Canadian range affords room for additional sheep, which the Dominion authorities are willing to have admitted by the Forest Service.

Appeals have been received from District 3 for assistance to stockmen in southern Arizona in securing cars to ship cattle out of the drouth stricken localities. Inquiry of the Food Administration developed that 3,225 cars have recently been allotted the Southwest to meet this need. The Food Administration is trying to secure special freight rates low enough to permit a larger movement of stock from New Mexico and parts of Arizona.

Four grazing reports from District 2 show that the considerable emergency increases of both cattle and sheep resulted in no injury to the range and recommend additional increases in the 1918 authorizations.

Timber Sale Notes

District 1 has proposed to issue an administrative use permit to the Southern Montana Railroad for approximately $5,000 worth of timber to be used for ties and trestles in construction, between Divide, Mont., and the mouth of Wise River, of a standard gauge railroad instead of the narrow gauge contemplated. A common carrier standard gauge railroad would enhance the value of the Big Hole country timber and make a difference of $135,000 on a pending application. The Secretary refused consent on the ground that the proposed free administrative use permit would be in effect a subsidy.

The New Mexico Lumber Company is interested in a body of approximately 36,000,000 feet of yellow pine on the Santa Fe National Forest, Gallinas River unit, appraised at $2.60 per thousand feet. Whether this timber will be offered for sale depends largely upon the action which the Indian Office may take with regard to the sale of an adjoining 20,000,000 feet of timber known as the Stinking Lake unit.

State Forestry

The new State Forester of Vermont, Mr. W. G. G. Hastings, formerly supervisor of the Deschutes National Forest, assumed office in August.

On request from the California Civil Service Commission, examination questions have been prepared for the position of Assistant State Forester.

Forest Examiner Murphy has been making a cooperative fire inspection in the northeastern States and is now in New Jersey.

Forest Examiner J. A. Mitchell, formerly in charge of the Feather River Experiment Station, District 5, took up his new duties in the Office of State Cooperation about September 1, and has completed inspections of cooperative fire protection work in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Texas. He is now in North Carolina, and will go from there to Kentucky.

Mr. Peters spent upwards of two months last summer on Weeks Law cooperative fire inspection in Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon, thus bringing his office in touch with the various State officials in that region. He was particularly impressed with the work in Oregon. In Washington the State Forester is doing efficient work and cooperates closely with the National Forests and private protective associations. In northern Idaho, the Potlatch Association especially is making fine progress in putting its organization on an up-to-date basis. Cooperation was started again in southern Idaho.

Small Inter-Forest Administrative Transfers to be Mapped Without New Presidential Proclamations

District 1 has recommended that certain areas which are included in the Cabinet and Flathead Forests but are administered as parts of the Lolo and Blackfeet Forests be permanently transferred by Presidential boundary proclamations, in order that in preparing new administrative maps of these Forests the actual situation may appear. Since no additions or eliminations are involved, Presidential proclamations are regarded as not advisable at the present time. Instead, the maps will be so prepared as to show the areas in question as under administration with the Forests actually in charge of them.

Food Administration Considering Logging Camp Bills of Fare

The Food Administration has submitted for criticism proposed bills of fare for logging camps. The Pacific Logging Congress in Seattle about a month ago passed a resolution favoring the Food Administration and indicating readiness to cooperate in helpful ways. The Congress felt that while a standard menu suitable for all their camps could not be made, a two-weeks menu would be helpful. In reply to the Food Administration the Forest Service has pointed out that local customs and economic conditions must be reckoned with. The fare

in western logging camps is more varied than in eastern camps, and corn meal, which figured very heavily, would be expensive in parts of the West and probably difficult to get in the quantities proposed. The logger in Georgia requires a different diet from the tie chopper in Montana. Very little pork or other fats were indicated. Submittal of the menus to interested parties in the various sections of the country for constructive criticism was suggested.

New Transits Prove Defective

Transits purchased from the 1917 instrument allotment have proved so generally unsatisfactory and the demand for instruments of this character by the War and other Departments is so great that further purchases will not be made this year and probably not before the close of the war. Shortage of skilled instrument makers is apparently a cause of lowered quality of output.

Further Action on General Increases in Grazing Fees Postponed

While the studies of the value of the grazing privilege made this year have fully borne out the original position of the Forest Service that the fees formerly in force should be doubled, on account of the present difficulties of the western livestock industry and the necessity for stimulating livestock production as a war measure the Secretary of Agriculture has decided to defer for the present any further increase in grazing fees, except minor changes to correlate the fees between certain Forests or groups of Forests.

Department of Agriculture Motion Pictures

Under a contract with the Universal Film Manufacturing Company, the Department of Agriculture will supply motion pictures dealing with its activities, every two weeks. The first release will be on November 30, with between 300 and 400 feet of "The Work of a Forest Ranger." This will appear in the film entitled "The Universal Screen Magazine," No. 47.

To assist in organizing the motion picture work of the Department, Mr. Ellis has been detailed temporarily to the office of Assistant Secretary Ousley.

Buffalo Bull from Wichita Herd Sold

A buffalo bull weighing 2,200 pounds was sold last week at public auction at Cache, Okla., for $510. There is an excess of bulls in the herd, which now numbers 100 head.

Notes from District 2

A sale to the Standard Timber Company on a portion of the Fox Park Unit, Medicine Bow Forest, Wyoming, included approximately 300,000 railway ties. The bid price for hewed ties was 11 cents.

The remaining timber on St. Louis Creek, on the Arapaho, about 15 million feet, is being advertised.

Steps are being taken to estimate the timber on approximately 20,000 acres within the South Kawishiwi Drainage, on the Superior, following receipt of an application for the timber. It is believed that the area will yield 20 million feet of mine timber and from 15,000 to 20,000 cords of spruce pulp wood.

To exploit private, State, and National Forest timber within the Montezuma National Forest near Dolores, the Rio Grande Southern Lumber Company has been formed. Railroad ties for the Rio Grande Railroad is one of the objects in view. The Company has been informed that the four or five million feet included in the House Creek Block, already prepared for sale, may be sold at short notice, and that steps will be taken to get ready for sale as soon as possible the other Forest Service timber, amounting to several hundred million feet, which will be made accessible by the construction of a railroad to the private timber.

District 2 has spent between $4,000 and $5,000 since July 1 in the development of improvements at recreation areas. At the Wheeler National Monument, on the Rio Grande Forest, a camping site has been fenced off, water developed, and a camp shelter and comfort station built. Extensive improvements have also been made in the Mt. Evans region of the Pike Forest. At the Beaver Meadows, two open shelters, camp fire places and a comfort station were constructed, while at the Mt. Evans camp site a spacious cabin was put up, in cooperation with the Colorado Mountain Club, for the use of visitors. At the Wapiti camp site, on the Cody road to Yellowstone Park, in the Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming, an up-to-date public comfort station, with hot and cold running water and shower baths, has been built.

A cooperative agreement with the South Dakota State Highway Commission for the survey and construction of the Deadwood-Merritt road through the Black Hills Forest has been signed. An application for aid under the 10 per cent road fund has been received from Pennington County, South Dakota, for the extension of the same road through to the Custer County line.

An edition of 3,000 copies of the new District base map showing, in red, all of the most important roads in the District, will soon be printed. This map is intended primarily for administrative use.

Through the installation of map-mounting equipment the District Office is now prepared to mount all maps instead of turning the work over to commercial houses.

Notes from District 4

All field work for land classification in District 4 has been completed except on the Idaho. The work on the Idaho also will be nearly if not quite completed this season.

As a result of a petition of stockmen, an examination of lands in the neighborhood of the Wyoming has been made. Over 100,000 acres are believed to be suitable for inclusion in the Forest.

The annual ranger examination was held at all Forest headquarters in District 4, and for the first time at Ogden, on October 29. Indications are that the result will be seriously disappointing. In some places no candidates appeared; in most of the others but one, two, or three. At Ogden there were three. Probably not more than 60 all told tackled the examination in District 4, and 20 eligibles will be about all to expect.

In the first draft under the Selective Service Act 42 members of the force in District 4 were drawn for military service. Of these 28 were permanent members of the organization. Six of them enlisted at once. Exemption claims were filed by the Secretary and allowed by the local draft boards for 9 others. These were exempted on account of physical disabilities, and 9 on account of dependents. Two were accepted for military service in the National Army. Of the 14 temporary men, 6 were exempted on the grounds of physical disabilities, 1 on account of dependents, and the other 7 were accepted for service.

Members of the Ogden office contributed $125 for Christmas boxes for District 4 men on military duty. The boxes, which were filled with fruitcake, cards, smoking material, candied fruit, chewing gum, chocolates, salted almonds, etc., were forwarded in the mail on November 10.

Surveys are being conducted by the Office of Public Roads on the Charleston-Jarbidge road on the Humboldt National Forest, Nevada; on the Ephraim-Orangeville, Logan-Garden City, and Heber-Fruitland roads on the Manti, Cache, and Uinta National Forests, respectively, in Utah. The survey of the Warm River-Yellowstone project on the Targhee National Forest, Idaho, has been completed. The cooperative agreement for the Noble-Montana Line project on the Salmon National Forest is awaiting execution by the State Highway Commission before starting the survey.

A deposit of $39,201 has been made by the Utah Power and Light Company in settlement of the cases which, after several years of litigation, were finally adjudicated by the U. S. Supreme Court last March. The sum comprises the amounts which would have been paid by the Company had it operated under permit, with interest at 6 per cent.

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The Dignity of the Draft

Perhaps no other class of men in civil life was more nearly ready for military service when the United States entered the war than were the foresters and the men employed in field work in State and Federal Forest services. They had the preparation which came from years of field experience. They had had all manner of problems to deal with and every kind of emergency to meet. They had been subject to shifts on short notice, with new assignments involving difficult problems and unknown conditions. Above all, they had the spirit of service and esprit de corps. They were fit, ready, and anxious to do their part.

All arms of the military service have absorbed men from the Forest Service. Our records show 214 men now in the Army or Navy, and the records are probably not complete.

The Forest Regiments offered unusual opportunities which Forest Service men and others were keen to accept. More were qualified than could be commissioned. In the organization of the 20th the War Department appears to have reached the conclusion that the qualifications called for are principally experience in sawmill work and logging. If this decision holds, there will be only limited opportunity for foresters in the later battalions.

But foresters and men of thorough Forest Service training are equally well prepared for other branches of the military service. Especially are they qualified to take their chances in the National Army. Some have felt that the draft is, if possible, to be avoided; that it shows a better spirit to volunteer; and even that it is something of a reflection on Forest Service men of good experience not to be given commissions at the start.

This point of view is wrong. The nation has established the selective draft as the approved method of raising its army. After December 15, men of draft age will no longer be accepted as volunteers. The test of real patriotism is whether we accept willingly the nation's approved plan and without halting or question take our places in the program. Forest Service men when they clearly understand the situation will accept the situation not only willingly, but with enthusiasm. Under the new instructions governing the selective service we know the class into which the necessary employees of the Forest Service will fall. When that class is reached we must expect that our men will go and we must make preparation against that time. Our part, if we are within conscription age, will consist in preparing ourselves for that service. If we are not within conscription age, our part will be to help carry the work so that the absence of those who go will not prove a vital loss.

WM. L. HALL.

Fires in District 5

A wire from District 5 dated November 23, received as the Bulletin goes to press, states that fire conditions throughout California are bad. It is estimated that it will cost $800 to extinguish one fire burning on the Santa Barbara. Mr. Headley is investigating 47 incendiary fires which have just been started on the Shasta.

The White Pine Blister Rust Situation

On November 13 Mr. Dana attended a meeting at Pittsburgh, Pa., of the Committee on the Suppression of the Pine Blister Rust in North America. About 30 representatives from the Department of Agriculture and various States and Canadian Provinces were present. It was brought out that the blister rust is probably worse in Northern than in Southern Europe. It may therefore prove particularly destructive in the Northern United States and Canada. Dr. Spaulding, of the Office of Forest Pathology, stated that he believes the blister rust is more virulent on healthy, growing trees than on weaker ones. Wind is probably the main agent in distributing the disease, but birds and insects are also responsible. The disease is so firmly established in New England and New York, and probably in Ontario, as to make its eradication impossible. It is more widely distributed in the Lake States than it was a year ago, particularly in the St. Croix River Valley. So far as known, it has not been introduced in the western white or sugar pine regions.

Proposed Cooperation with Maine

Tentative arrangements have been made with Mr. C. D. Woods, Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station, Orono, Maine, to assign a man, if one is available, to cooperative work in starting a fuel wood campaign in Maine, where a coal shortage is looked for this winter and possibly a still more serious one next year.

Laboratory Instructs Signal Corps Inspectors

Because of the great difficulty experienced by the Signal Corps in securing trained men for inspectors of the wood used in airplanes, the Forest Service last spring offered to aid in this respect by a short course of instruction at the Forest Products Laboratory. Three groups of men, totaling about 25 have now taken advantage of this offer. The course, which covers a period of a week or ten days, includes instruction in identification, physical and mechanical properties of wood, kiln-drying, the effects of decay, etc. It is proposed to continue this plan as men are appointed, and can be spared from their regular duties. The American Bureau of Shipping has decided to follow the same plan with the surveyors who are to be employed in the inspection of wooden ships. A large number of airplane manufacturing companies and vehicle companies have also been invited to detail their men to the Laboratory for a course of instruction in kiln-drying, and a few have taken advantage of this offer.

Cooperation in the Study of Glues

The Forest Service has been requested by the Signal Corps to supervise the inspection and testing of glue for airplane construction. This work will be handled by the Madison Laboratory. Two Signal Corps inspectors are already stationed at Madison for this purpose. While working under the supervision of the Madison staff, the decision of these inspectors will be made as representatives of the Signal Corps. The Forest Service became interested in glues because of the importance of proper methods of gluing in airplane construction and the lack of satisfactory specifications. The present glue specifications of the Signal Corps are essentially those recommended by the Laboratory.

A Forester in Persia

The following extracts from a letter received by Mr. Zon from Edward C. M. Richards, at Urumia, Persia, throw some interesting lights on conditions which prevail in that country. Mr. Richards is a graduate of the Yale Forest School and was formerly a consulting forester in New York. He is now a volunteer worker of the American Armenian Relief Association:

******* "The people out here grow Lombardy poplar as a timber tree. Little groves of it or now and then fair-sized patches is the nearest they come to forests. Most of it is grown in long rows along irrigation ditches. They trim it off along the trunk so that it developes into a very tall thin tree. They use these poles as rafters, etc. in their mud houses. The really great need here is fuel wood. They use manure cakes in their fires almost entirely, as only the wealthy can afford wood to burn. About the best they can find in the way of fuel is almond wood, sycamore, or fruit trees, but that is hard to buy at reasonable cost. Twenty dollars (about) was the price I heard quoted for one cord. Except along the few river beds where willows, wild olive, and as far as I have seen nothing else, grow, this is a treeless country. In fact the location of the villages is noticed by the presence of trees, which are on irrigated soil. My belief is that this is due to lack of enough water or to poor distribution of rainfall.

Now to get down to what can be tried out here. I have some Western Yellow Pine seed, and some Douglas Fir. But it strikes me that some of the real desert trees of America, such as the Mesquite, the Palo Verde, and especially the Eucalyptus, might do well here. Also I am anxious to try out some of the dry site conifers such as the Jack Pine, all four of the Nut Pines, and any other extreme drought resisting species. It also seems to me that the Ailanthus should do well on some sites here and make a welcome shade tree. Then the thought comes to me that there may be a number of Australian species which might fit and perhaps the Aleppo Pine, Pinus halpensis Mill, might be worth trying out. And are there not some very hardy species that grow on the dry veldt in Africa and on the plains of Argentine?

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As to the irrigated tracts it seems to me that there are better species than the Lombardy Poplar. How about the American Cottonwood? Could you send me a few cuttings or some seed to experiment with?

I am writing this, and in fact we are all acting in our work, as if it was a sure thing that nothing in the way of another invasion of this district by the Turks and Kurds was going to take place. In reality we are always living on a powder mine here. There are some fifteen thousand refugees right here in Urumia and all around us thousands more. Three thousand fresh ones came in a little south of here about two weeks ago. Many of them were really almost naked and the poverty, famine, want and horror of it all makes your heart ache. I sure am glad I came out to do what I could. This winter is going to be the worst that ever struck this region. Just at present it is summer and so warm that the poor people do not need clothes much. Also they manage to scrape up enough to keep alive, but when the cold starts in there will be the most terrible want that you can think of. I assure you that when you have a small mob of fifty Gilu, Kurdish, and Syrian men, women and little children pressing around on you, filthy dirty, covered with sores, haggard and gaunt and all of them crying out for anything at all to eat, it makes you feel pretty hard towards the plenty of the United States and the way they are not making use of it. Why, one night's expenditures on wine, women and song along Broadway would save the lives of whole nations out here. I thought that I had seen some of the poorest people alive when I saw some of the poor people of the New York slums and the poor whites of the South, but they are bloated bondholders compared to these refugees.

Aside from the refugee part of this country, the mixture of races is a fright. In five minutes you see Americans, Russians, Kurds, Armenians, Syrians, Gelus (Nestorians or Assyrians), Mongolians, and Persians. And the mixture of language, thought and beliefs is even worse than the mixture of races. One is often thrown with people who can speak with everyone they meet!!! And to speak three or four tongues is nothing at all!!! There is an element of excitement that adds zest to things too. For instance, nobody who doesn't have to goes out at night. There are too many bandits around. And every day

you hear of murder, rape, robbery, holding for ransom, and such little things. Add to this the fact that typhoid is always epidemic, that cholera is rampant only a few miles away and that there is a regular leprosy village over near Tabriz and you see that this is an interesting country. One does not grow bored with life here by any means. He may be sitting quietly along that line some evening and allowing his mind to drift into idle thought realms, but a couple of rifle shots in the dark out on the road will probably wake him up.

There is one thing that makes you glad that you came here. That is the way the American Missionaries have stuck to their posts. As I write there are more than nine American ladies and their children right here in the middle of things. And most of them went through the Siege of two years ago when this compound contained some thousands of refugees and when typhus fever carried off dozens of them a day. One doctor told me of the rescue of the Christians of Goeg-Taper when one Missionary went in among the Kurds while the bullets were flying all around him, talked the Kurds around, stopped the fight, and got the sixteen hundred cornered Christians to surrender their arms and then led them right through the Kurdish troops five miles to the city and safety. Some fellow, don't you think? I assure you that it is a pleasure and an inspiration to be working with that fellow. And the women were just as fine too. And now this whole region just loves these American Missionaries. Why, the day I got here I saw a big evil-looking mountaineer, who looked like a terror, run up to Dr. Shedd and try to kiss his hand, while tears stood in his eyes. But one can easily understand it for there would be no Urumia, and nothing but a barren waste on all sides if these men and women had not stuck to their posts. They saved the lives, property and country of probably forty thousand people more or less. So you see, I am glad to be here and I hope that I may have the chance to do my bit here where the need is so terrible. Surely I have the very best of company. **********"

Notes from District 1

Fifty-seven applications for enlistment in the 20th Engineers were received at the District Office in the week ending November 10. This brings the total of applications received in the District up to 313.

Messrs. Elers Koch and C. N. Whitney took the examination for the Officers' Reserve Corps at Yellowstone early in the month.

Final approval of the cooperative agreements for the construction of the Alberton Road on the Lolo National Forest has been given by the Secretary. If weather conditions permit the road will be constructed this winter.

Notes from District 2

On September 24 the Secretary of Agriculture recommended to the Interior Department that an elimination of approximately 100,000 acres be made from the Routt National Forest. The larger part consists of brush and aspen-covered mesas and foothills in the northwest portion of the Forest. The remainder comprises the toe of the boot formed by the south end of the Forest, and an area along Morrison Creek. The proper classification of the large area at the north end of the Forest has been a mooted question for a number of years. In spite of a short growing season and a very limited range of possible farm crops, homeseekers have applied for the most favorably located areas and such tracts have been listed and opened to homestead entry. The results obtained have, on the whole, been sufficient to demonstrate that much of the area could be used to some advantage for a limited type of agriculture. This would result in the ultimate settlement and private control of so large a proportion of the area that the remaining lands would be of little value for Forest purposes and difficult of administration.

From the annual grazing reports there is every reason to believe that we are going to carry the full numbers of stock put on the Forests last season under both regular and emergency authorizations. In fact, some of the Forests are contemplating still further emergency increases.

Continuing authorizations for five years have been recommended to the Forester for all of the Forests of the District. If these are approved, each Forest will know definitely five years in advance of the regular numbers for which applications may be approved without getting the Secretary's annual approval.

The total recommendations for District 2 on the five-year plan aggregate 520,800 cattle and horses and 1,499,550 sheep and goats. This is an increase of 14,865 cattle and horses and 59,600 sheep and goats over the regular numbers authorized for 1917, but represents 22,268 cattle and horses and 47,955 sheep and goats less than were authorized under the emergency of 1917. The numbers are, therefore, safely conservative. The total numbers covered by regular and emergency authorization for 1918 will no doubt exceed those for 1917.

Ranger Cuenin and Forest Examiner Sauder, of the Cochetopa Forest, discovered two parties with deer in their possession, who plead guilty and were fined $100 and costs. Charles Headrick, supposed to have done the killing, was also arrested in Salida and is now under a $500 bond awaiting trial. It seems that Mr. Headrick has been suspected of killing deer out of season for several years and has taken every occasion to tell what he would do to the Forest Officer who tried to arrest him.

Three of the elk imported to the Colorado Springs region of the Pike were killed by a local rancher who afterwards confessed to the killing, and stated he did so because the elk were destroying his crops. The offender will be tried at an early date.

Notes from District 3

Mr. J. O. Seth, Assistant to the Solicitor, has resigned to accept appointment as Assistant United States District Attorney at Santa Fe. Mr. Seth has been connected with the District for six years, and has made many friends who wish him every success in his new position.

The big sale on the Sitgreaves National Forest is a reality. The purchaser is the newly incorporated Apache Lumber Company. The Apache Railroad Company has been organized to construct the 75 miles of road connecting Holbrook, Arizona, with the mill site at Cluff Cienega by way of Snowflake, Arizona, and several miles of grade have already been constructed.

Of the 635,000,000 feet of timber whose sale was necessary to make this enterprise financially possible, 400,000,000 feet lie in the White Mountain Apache Indian Reservation. The contracts with the Forest Service and Indian Service, as the result of agreements arrived at after much discussion, are identical in all important particulars.

This is not only the largest sale ever consummated in the District, but it is the first joint sale ever arranged between the two Departments. The sale area lies entirely north and above the Mogollon rim. The scenic features, including the view of the White River valley, are especially attractive. Fishing is good, and it is the intention of the purchaser to establish a first-class hotel for summer visitors at a point conveniently near the terminus of the railroad and overlooking the rim.

It is calculated that the Sitgreaves and Apache timber will yield a cut of 40,000,000 feet annually forever, without exhausting the growing stock, if proper management is applied. This enterprise promises to be the beginning of one of the greatest examples of applied forest management and sustained yield in the National Forests.

Speaking of the well-known pig in the Ranger examination, an applicant on the Lincoln refused the tempting bait: "As to the Pig," he wrote to the permittee, "that would be no object, as I generally raise my own meat."

The fire situation is at least temporarily relieved by the rainfall on the night of November 15. An inch of rain is reported from the Santa Fe and from the Lincoln.

The Secretary has issued a permit to the American Museum of Natural History for the examination and gathering of objects of antiquity on the Sitgreaves.

Notes from District 5

District Engineer Fowler returned November 11 from a week in Washington, D. C., where he was in conference with representatives from the Washington and California offices of the Water Resources Branch of the U. S. Geological Survey regarding continuance of the streamflow experiments in Los Angeles County and extending the work to the San Bernardino end of the Angeles National Forest. It was decided to continue the Los Angeles County work by the present methods, but in the San Bernardino district contracts with cooperators will be made with the U. S. Geological Survey, acting for the Government, and the Forest Service will cooperate.

During October considerable time was spent by Mr. C. L. Hill, of Products, in company with Mr. J. C. Nellis of the Washington Office, visiting the navy yards and going over navy yard lumber stock lists and specifications to aid in revising them to fit modern milling conditions. Mr. Nellis while in San Francisco also conferred with the lumber associations for the purpose of securing information in regard to their standard lumber sizes and specifications.

A. J. Jaenicke, who has been in District 5 for several months assisting in an insect control survey, has returned to District 6. It is expected he will return in the spring to continue investigative work. The insect control survey of the Sequoia, Sierra, Stanislaus, and Eldorado Forests disclosed the fact that the annual loss on these four Forests is approximately $65,000. Seventy-five per cent of this loss occurs on the Sequoia and Sierra Forests. The loss of $65,000 is on 18 per cent of the standing sugar and yellow pine in California. The survey cost the Forest Service $12,000.

The fire cooperation campaign commenced last spring brought $4,000 new money into the treasury, and 220 owners of private lands within or near the Forests cooperated with the Forest Service this past season for the first time.

Approximately 1,500 fires occurred in the National Forests of California during the past season. They were suppressed at a cost of $100,000. One hundred and fifty of these fires could be classified as severe. Between fifteen and eighteen thousand acres of timberlands were burned over.

W. N. Sparhawk, Forest Examiner from the Forester's Office, is in the District, getting data for the forest fire studies.

The Laguna tracts in the Cleveland Forest offer some of the best possibilities for extensive summer home-site development in California. Mineral Examiner Friedhoff is now on the area surveying building sites. It is expected that the road into the tract, which is being constructed under the direction of J. L. Mathias, will be completed early in 1918.

An improvement crew started work on the Angeles November 1 with forty men in charge of Ranger Robert Finley. They commenced work on a road up San Dimas Canyon, which will open up new special-use areas.

The California Packing Corporation of San Francisco was awarded the sale of 233,000,000 feet of timber on the Norval Flat-McCoy chance on the Lassen National Forest. Three bids were received, that of the successful competitor being 10 cents per thousand above the minimum for the Norval-Flat timber and the minimum for that on the McCoy chance. The prices to be paid are, for yellow, Jeffrey, and sugar pine, on the Norval-Flat $2.85, on the McCoy chance $3.00; for fir on both, 50 cents per M. As a result of the sale, Mr. Carter says, desirable community development at Susansville will take place, the present monopoly of a single lumber company in the locality will be broken, and the manufacture of fruit boxes will be greatly stimulated.

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WEEKLY BULLETIN

Forest Service - Washington Office

(Not for publication)

November 29, 1917.

Why the Grazing Fees Were Not Increased

The Secretary's decision to postpone further general increases in grazing fees for the present should not be construed to mean an abandonment of the policy previously announced that the charge for grazing would be based upon the real value of the privilege, as this is not the case. The reason for deferring the increase was simply that the immediate situation confronting the stockmen presented many unusual difficulties, such as severe drouth in parts of the Southwest, general shortage of winter feed, car shortage, uncertain markets, etc., all of which were problems with which the Department of Agriculture was concerned and which, together with the efforts of the Department to encourage increased meat production, made it seem inconsistent to raise the grazing fees at this time. The Secretary's letter to the livestock associations made it clear that the postponement is temporary and applies only while the present economic situation lasts.

In the meantime the program of constructive grazing work for development of the National Forest ranges and improvement in quality of the livestock produced upon them will continue without change, so that when the time comes for increasing the fees it will be perfectly clear to every one that the National Forest range is worth the price that will be charged for it.

A. F. Potter.

Mr. Zon returned on November 19 from an inspection trip through all of the western Districts. He reports that although the Experiment Stations have lost seven men through enlistment the investigative work of the Stations has on the whole been affected very little, except that in one or two cases projected new work was not begun. At some of the stations, particularly the Fremont Experiment Station, there has been even increased activity in the studies already under way. The research men have also assisted in national defense work in various ways. Although it has been harder for them to stay than to go, there is full faith in the usefulness of the work and belief that at the end of the war there will be a still greater need for the results of forest research. At the same time, every one is ready to drop the project on which his energies have been concentrated and undertake any work which will help the country.

District Forester F. A. Silcox has resigned from the Forest Service to accept a temporary position as special assistant to the Secretary of Labor. In that capacity he will undertake an investigation of labor conditions in the Pacific Northwest. It is expected that after his work there is completed he will resume his regular duties with the Forest Service. Mr. Silcox was commissioned as captain in the 20th Engineers and was to have been called for service in a short time. He resigned his commission in order to take up his new work.

There may be considerable difficulty in getting information about the work of the Forest Regiments in France. In September the editor of one of the leading lumber trade journals wrote the Forest Service asking whether arrangements might be made for articles at frequent intervals descriptive of the work of the Forest Regiments. The letter was forwarded to Colonel Graves in France. A recent letter from Major Greeley states that the censorship regulations make it nearly impossible to send out any information of

real news value about the forestry operations in France. Major Greeley said, however, that he would try to prepare something which can be published on the problems of lumber supply for the Army

From indirect accounts of a letter received by the family of one of the men in the Tenth, the regiment has already had its trials. The trip across the pond was long and exceedingly rough. Many of the men suffered severely from seasickness. Some of the biggest and huskiest had the worst time.

The regiment reached France during a spell of bad weather and was exposed to steady rains for several days without an opportunity to dry things out. As a result, some of the men were on the sick list with various minor ailments. They were, however, in a hospital located at a comfortable chateau and were being well cared for. From all accounts the little English-French dictionaries are being worked overtime.

It is understood that the regiment is quartered in "billets." Newspaper accounts say that "even the wood cutting camps lost in the forests of France" had a liberal allowance of turkey and "fixins" sent them for Thanksgiving. This may refer to the 10th, although "lost in the forests" is not to be taken too literally.

The Tenth Needs Sweaters

A letter just received from Lieutenant Williams, Chaplain of the Tenth Engineers, contains the following:

"We have just arrived in our permanent camp. It has been very cold and the sound of sweaters in the making has been received with great joy. We are so near to the fighting line that we can hear the guns booming away when it is at all quiet.

"I am enclosing the names of the men in Companies D and F that desire sweaters, all of them being men who do not possess such articles and who have signed up for the same. I have written the Captains of the other companies to send you similar lists for themselves, and I think it would be well if it could be done, to send the articles for each company direct to it. We have not requested scarfs or wristlets believing that men in other forms of work could use those articles to better advantage.

"Thanking you and those whom you represent more than we can express for your goodness, I am, faithfully yours,

(Signed) H. Y. Williams."

A letter from Captain Inman F. Eldredge of Company B, Tenth Engineers, received yesterday, is in part as follows:

"Chaplain Williams has just notified me that the ladies of the Forest Service and the Red Cross are prepared to furnish sweaters, scarfs, and wristlets to the men of this command who have none. Owing to the rough nature of the work in which our men are engaged, scarfs and wristlets would not be of great service and we would feel that we were taking them from other men who might make better use of them. For sweaters and heavy socks, however, we have a real need and the soldiers will be able to make good use of them. If they can be supplied we have need for 100 sweaters and at least 200 pairs of heavy knit socks. Socks particularly are needed, since during the coming winter many of our men will be working in a wet country."

It has become plain that meeting the needs of the Forest Regiments for sweaters calls for swift and large expansion of the knitting work. Colonel Mitchell of the 20th has requested immediate delivery of 1,300 sweaters and 1,600 comfort kits and other articles. The Woman's Committee for the Tenth and Twentieth Engineers was able to provide 123 sweaters, mainly knitted by Forest Service women. The Potomac Division of the Red Cross, which embraces Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, with their great camps, was able to add 677. Thousands more will be needed for the 20th within the next two months.

Progress in Organizing Department of Agriculture Voluntary War Work

On November 15 permanent organization of women and wives of men employees in the Department of Agriculture, under the lead of Mrs. Houston, wife of the Secretary, took place. An Executive Committee with representatives of all the important bureaus and also of the standing committees created will have general charge. The other committees are Finance, Knitting, Hospital Garments, Surgical Dressings, Housing, War Orphans, Entertainment, Books and Scrap Books, Registration, and Publicity. To date the Forest Service representatives on these committees, not all of which are completed, are as follows: Chairman of knitting committee and member of executive committee, Mrs. Graves; knitting committee and executive committee, Mrs. Conway; finance, committee, Mrs. Crocker; surgical dressings committee, Miss Anderson; war orphans committee, Miss Leech; registration committee, Miss Daniel.

The name of the organization will be Woman's War Relief Association and Red Cross Auxiliary of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A second mass meeting was held on the evening of November 25. The needs of various forms of Red Cross and other work were presented by a number of speakers. Herbert A. Smith of the Forest Service presented briefly the sweater situation.

As the Bulletin goes to press word is received that the President on November 30 signed a proclamation eliminating 326,818 acres from the Manzano National Forest in Arizona and New Mexico.

Notes from District 1

Intensive land classification for this District was not completed this field season as planned, on account of examiners being called to fire duty. There still remains enough work to keep one party busy for a period of approximately four months. This work will be cleared up next season by July 1.

S. T. Simons has enlisted as a draftsman in the 25th Regiment of Engineers.

During the past two years studies of the extent to which white pine seed stored in duff can be relied upon to furnish natural reproduction after cutting have been made at the Priest Lake Experiment Station. A number of test plots were established and white pine seed was sown in the duff under a variety of conditions. The results to date are not as encouraging as the preliminary work seemed to indicate. Contrary to expectations, it was found that the bulk of the seed stored in the early spring of 1915 germinated in the first two seasons. While the study is not exhaustive enough to disprove our theory that seed in the duff will furnish natural reproduction, it emphasizes the necessity of not placing too much reliance upon this source of seed in making our cuttings in white pine.

Notes from District 2

Timber sale activities were rather brisk in the middle of November. Appraisals were received in one week from the following Forests: Routt, one; Pike, two; Harney, one; Black Hills, one. All of these will be Class D sales.

A company is being formed for the purchase of the 30 million feet of timber on the North Fork of Elk River, on the Routt Forest, recently advertised for sale. An option has been secured on the holdings of the Forks Timber Company, which was located on the same logging unit.

Two sales of timber on the Minnesota Forest, amounting to approximately $25,000 in value, have recently been made to the J. Neils Lumber Company of Cass Lake, Minn. Advertisement of another area has been initiated. The receipts from these sales go to the Interior Department to be placed to the credit of the Chippewa

Indians of Minnesota. The Neils Lumber Company bid as high in one case as $10.61 per thousand for live Norway and white pine which was very accessible and of exceptional quality.

Plans are under way for continuing the rangers' study courses this winter. About 25 have enrolled in the surveying and 27 in the telephony course. An inquiry as to the desirability of instituting a mathematics course brought favorable replies from 60 rangers. It is thought, therefore, that this course will be added. Mr. Kylie will personally conduct the telephony course and will have general supervision of all the courses, with the possible assistance of two men from the Forests to look after the details of the surveying and mathematics courses.

Three cases of livestock losses have been reported in which the owners have suspected enemies of the Government. One sheep man in South Park lost in a single night 1,000 sheep, for which he had just paid $14 a head. While the Denver office believes that the reported losses were due to poisonous plants, the State Veterinarian did not find evidences of poison, but thought the loss might have been caused by contagious pneumonia. The other two were cattle cases. At the request of the stockmen, they were reported to the Secret Service of the Treasury Department. The Department replied that it was physically impossible to make individual examinations and urged Forest officers to exert unusual vigilance, particularly in the matter of looking into the presence of strangers in the vicinity of ranches and on the mountain ranges.

Notes from District 3

The New Mexico Lumber Company has decided not to purchase the timber on the Jicarilla Indian Reservation and have applied for 36 million feet of pine on the Santa Fe. This timber will be advertised shortly.

The special grazing inspections started this year will be continued until information regarding the full carrying capacity of all the Forests is available, or until the war emergency has passed. This action was decided upon at a recent conference of grazing men in the District Office. It is planned to supplement this work by follow-up inspections during the next two years.

Mr. Cheney has taken Mr. Seth's place until a permanent successor is designated.

Notes from District 4

Advertisements have been placed for the sale of approximately 5,000,000 board feet of timber on the Salmon River National Forest, which will be manufactured principally into mine timbers and lumber for use at the numerous mines tributary to the Gilmore & Pittsburg Railroad.

All field work on the Intensive Classification has been completed and the preparation of the reports is well under way. The soils maps were prepared during the summer as fast as the field work was completed. It is hoped that this procedure will speed up the submission of the reports so that they will come in during the winter months instead of in the spring. So far as can be foreseen at present there will be no hitch in the program of completing the entire classification of the District by July 1, 1918.

The Entry Survey field season closed in this District on November 17, the four crews on this work having made 147 surveys.

Notes from District 5

E. H. Steffen, Forest Assistant on the Modoc, has been permanently assigned to the Klamath.

The Stillwater Land & Cattle Company's grazing permits were cancelled recently on the grounds that the Company was not affording the Forest Service the necessary and proper cooperation in the matter of fire fighting. This cancellation was given wide publicity in northern California.

Ranger Tom Sloane of the Angeles Forest has been assigned to the Cleveland to familiarize himself with the Supervisor's duties in order that he may take charge should Supervisor N. H. Sloane leave the Forest to join the military.

Chester Jordan, Deputy Supervisor on the Sierra, has been assigned to the Inyo Forest in order to familiarize himself with the work there, in anticipation of a permanent transfer to the Inyo.

Grazing Inspector J. T. Jardine is now in the District in connection with the working up of plans for next season's grazing work.

Notes from District 6

Four tracts of National Forest spruce are being sold in this district. In the Quinault Lake region on the Olympic National Forest 600,000 feet of spruce has been sold to C. R. Hutton, at $4 per thousand feet. No other species will be used except as needed incidentally in the logging operations. The contract requires lumber to be manufactured in such a manner as to produce the maximum amount of aeroplane material. Three other tracts, totaling 6,600,000 board feet, are being advertised. On these sales other species than spruce will not be cut except as needed incidentally in the logging operations. In order to make it possible to get out the spruce quickly, the Forest Service has sacrificed some of the usual requirements in the way of utilization in making these spruce sales. Only those trees containing aeroplane stock will be cut.

The tract containing 6,800,000 feet of spruce and 60,000 feet of hemlock on the Tongass Forest has been awarded to the Worthem Lumber Company at $2.25 for the spruce and 50 cents per M for the hemlock. The spruce on this tract is an especially good quality for Alaska. The sale contract requires the maximum amount of aeroplane stock to be cut in manufacturing it.

Forest Inspector E. E. Carter of the Washington office visited District 6 in the middle of November. He was here to confer with the District Forester on the part the Forest Service can play in stimulating production of spruce aeroplane stock. Mr. Carter also discussed plans for future work in view of the changes in personnel due to the war.

Land classifiers Miller, Nilsson and Talbott, who have been on examinations on Crater, Fremont, Olympic, and Siuslaw, have returned to the office to compile their reports. Examiner Asher Ireland has returned from the north regions, where he examined lands in the Matanuska regions as to their suitability for National Forests. He reports the timber line at 63 degrees north latitude to be 1,600 feet above the sea. Strange to say, he found agricultural possibilities good on the river bottoms.

Ben Eddy, who has been making surveys on the Siuslaw and Siskiyou Forests for final entries on Forest homesteads, returned to the office and enlisted in the 23d (Highway) Engineers.

The Forest Service will again cooperate with the Weather Bureau in keeping a record of snowfall on the National Forests this winter. Snow stakes will be read at as frequent intervals as necessary by rangers in connection with their other field work. From the data obtained, the Weather Bureau is able to approximate streamflow in the region for the succeeding summer.

The Forest Service is represented at the Portland Land Show now in progress, by a forest fire exhibit, which is attracting considerable attention. This exhibit shows apparatus and tools used by the Service in its fire protective work and a number of bromides showing the effects of uncontrolled forest fires.

Cooperative agreements of two Federal aid Forest road projects in Oregon and two in Washington have been approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. The Oregon projects are a section of the Flora-Enterprise Road, 13 miles long and entirely within the Wallowa Forest, and the Meford-Klamath Falls Project, three miles in the Crater National Forest. In Washington, the Cooks-Collins project is 4.3 miles long, 3.9 miles of which are in the Columbia National Forest, and the Republic-Wauconda Road, 7 miles long, 2.55 miles of which lie within the Colville National Forest.

An allotment of $2,000 of 10 per cent Oregon money has been made for the location survey of the Zig Zag Government Camp project in the Columbia National Forest, Oregon. It is expected that there will later be a cooperative agreement with the State Highway Commission of Oregon covering the survey, construction, and maintenance of this project.

On November 21 the Secretary executed the cooperative agreement with the State Highway Commission of Oregon, and the Board of County Commissioners of Crook County, Oregon, for the survey, construction, and maintenance of the Ochoco Canyon Project in Crook County and partly within the Ochoco National Forest. The total cost of making the location survey and constructing the project is estimated at $30,000. The agreement provides that the Secretary shall pay 25 per cent of the final cost and the local authority the balance.

Assistant District Forester Mackenzie and Deputy Supervisor L. E. MacDaniels, who is on special detail to the District Office, are in Seattle to attend the meeting of the Chelan-Okanogan Forest Users' Association, which occurred November 24. Before returning to the District office they will visit British Columbia and have a conference with officials in regard to the use of grazing land in Canada north of the Okanogan National Forest. This land is only accessible from the American side.

Notes from District 7

Mr. Reed has returned from an extended inspection trip to Florida, Georgia, Alabama, and North Carolina. He reports that this fall has been exceedingly dry throughout the Southern Appalachian region. Thus far District 7 has been lucky, however, in not having any serious fires. "The increased efficiency of the fire fighting force" consequently has not been severely tested.

Mr. R. W. Shields, in charge of the Savannah purchase area, is in the District Office on detail for a couple of weeks.

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WEEKLY BULLETIN

Forest Service - Washington Office

(Not for publication)

December 6, 1917.

Employment under War-Time Conditions

Many recommendations for appointments and other action involving the personnel status of employees in the Forest Service are not reaching the Secretary until after the date of effectiveness has passed. A request has been received from the Department that no one be assigned to duty, except in the most urgent cases, until after the Secretary has had an opportunity to consider the recommendation for his appointment, and that no one who is not a citizen of the United States be selected for employment. It is especially desired that only loyal citizens of the United States be given employment, either permanent or temporary.

The departmental rules governing the granting of leave of absence without pay are also being given a stricter interpretation than hitherto. A recommendation that a Ranger be given leave without pay for the purpose of attending a Ranger school was recently returned from the Secretary's office without approval. The fact that many Rangers have been temporarily discharged from the draft on the claim that they were necessary for the administration and protection of the forests and that they could not be replaced makes no other decision consistent. The work of the Department must be considered first, and leave of absence should not be recommended for any purpose involving primarily the benefit of the individual. It follows that if a man wants to enter private business, go to school, or undertake any activity that would be for his personal benefit, he should resign in order that his place may be filled, or else remain on duty.

In tightening up its personnel requirements the Department, of course, has no desire unnecessarily to hamper efficient administration, but, as stated by Mr. Potter in a recent letter to the District Foresters, "it must be recognized that in the present national emergency inconveniences in administration must not stand in the way of the public safety."

G. G. Anderson.

In line with the policy as stated by Mr. Anderson, the Secretary has lately disapproved requests from two members of the Service for annual leave in which to deliver lectures at a Forest School.

Other War Matters

The Provost Marshal General has approved a memorandum covering the procedure in the case of members of the Department whom the Secretary may desire to have exempted from draft. This acknowledges the right of the Secretary to designate members of the Department for "deferred classification"; also that the Secretary may claim such "deferred classification" for a member of the Department at any time previous to that at which the man in question is actually ordered for duty in the army. In all cases the Secretary's decision will suffice to establish the classification of men whom he considers necessary for carrying on the work of the Department.

The Madison Laboratory has been able to assist the vehicle industry in solving the difficult problem of drying heavy green wagon stock for Army escort wagons. Representatives of concerns handling about 63 per cent of the wagon contracts placed up to November 1 have visited the Laboratory to get first-hand information

regarding the construction and operation of the Forest Service humidity-regulated kiln, while representatives of the Laboratory have visited plants handling 54 per cent of these contracts to give assistance in preparing plans and installing kilns. Many new kilns have been built and old ones remodeled. As a means of developing trained kiln operators, all wagon manufacturers have been asked to send their men to the Laboratory for a free course of instruction.

Recruiting for the 20th Engineers is proceeding with great rapidity. Many woodsmen who will be included in the draft of December 15 are anticipating the call by getting into a regiment in which their experience will count. The third and fourth battalions are now fully recruited, and will probably soon be on their way to France. The fifth and sixth battalions, it is expected, will be recruited to full strength by December 15.

A letter just received from an officer of the 10th tells of the need for sweaters and other supplementary articles of clothing. "Up to date," the letter says, "the weather over here has been very mild, with scarcely any freezing, and the men have therefore been very comfortable. We are, however, quartered in tents heated by 'Sibley' stoves, and probably will be all winter. Therefore, anything like sweaters, scarfs, or wristlets will be appreciated, even in the tents.

"I have about a hundred men operating on a large estate, and so far we are getting excellent results. The personnel of this detachment and, as you probably know, of the whole 10th Regiment, is very high.

"The men have cleaned out a large barn and made a Y.M.C.A. out of it, or as they call it, a 'Ladies' Rest Room.' They have hired a piano, and as several of the men play the piano and other musical instruments, this will help to make cheerful many of the long winter evenings."

In another letter the same officer tells how, before being split up into detachments and while quartered in a small French town, the men of the 10th received their pay. About $50,000 was distributed to them, and with true lumberjack prodigality they started to blow it in. It was a great day for the local shopkeepers, who had not known before that there was so much money in the world. The little stores soon sold practically everything they had in stock, while the men were the possessors of a great quantity of miscellaneous articles, some useful and some not.

To provide funds for the work of the Woman's War Relief Association and Red Cross Auxiliary of the Department of Agriculture, all members of the Department in Washington and the wives of men members have been invited to sign pledge cards promising a certain amount each pay day for one year beginning December 1. For those who preferred, the option was given of a lump sum contribution. It is believed that $500 a month is a conservative estimate of the amount that will be obtained. The Executive Committee of the Association will make allotments from this Department fund to the committees in charge of the several lines of work. In this way some of the cost of wool for knitting sweaters will be met.

Washington Office Notes

Supervisor Vernon Metcalf of the Lemhi National Forest came to Washington on December 3 to act as the Forest Service member of the Civil Service board for marking ranger examination papers. The work will probably take about six weeks.

Mr. William N. Sparhawk returned to Washington on December 6 after a four months' field trip through the districts in connection with a study to devise means for determining the fire hazard in any particular locality. To do this the relative importance of each factor, such as topography, character of timber and undergrowth, degree of dryness, wind velocity, etc., has to be taken into account. Mr. Sparhawk spent most of his time in Districts 3, 4, and 5, and it is likely that a field trip next summer will be necessary before the study is completed.

Members of the Washington office who were in the field last summer report that the wives of Forest officers have "gone the limit" in canning vegetables and fruits for winter use. Their example has undoubtedly been a stimulus to their neighbors to do the same thing, and is a real contribution toward conserving the country's food supply.

Only three bills affecting National Forests have been introduced in Congress up to and including December 6. All three of these dealt with land in District 6, and two of them appear to be very meritorious measures. A bill introduced by Congressman McArthur provides for the addition to the Oregon Forest of all the O. and C. lands revested in the United States by special Act of Congress and within the exterior boundaries of the Bull Run Forest Reserve. Senator Chamberlain has introduced a bill providing that lands which were reconveyed to the Government as a basis for Forest lieu selections, but for which no selection had been made, or which were canceled prior to March 3, 1905, may be reconveyed to the original owner by the Commissioner of the General Land Office, or, if the base lands are disposed of for public purposes, such as the inclusion in a National Forest, the original owner may select unappropriated non-min mineral surveyed lands of equal area and value. The third bill provides for a grant of about 50 acres of land to the Portland railway and lighting company.

The General Land Office has just called the attention of the Forest Service to our misuse of the term "land district." It has been our custom uniformly to give the land district the name of the town in which the local land office is located. This is not always correct. Some land districts created by Congress have been given special names different from that of the town in which their office has been located. To be on the safe side, it is well to say Roseburg land office or Boise land office, as the case may be, avoiding the use of the word "district."

Notes from District 2

Charles Headrick, who was arrested by Ranger Cuenin and Forest Examiner Sauder, has since been found guilty of killing deer and sentenced to six months in the County jail. Headrick, it seems, has made a regular practice of killing deer and selling the venison to certain parties in Salida. He has made the statement that since coming to Salida about fifteen years ago he has killed in the neighborhood of 400 deer and mountain sheep.

The activity of Ranger Prater of the Holy Cross Forest in game protection has resulted in the search of the William Eaton Ranch near Avon, Colorado, the finding of venison, and the arrest and conviction of Mr. Eaton. The fine was $100 and costs of $11.

Ranger Prater and Forest Examiner Keplinger recently arrested a Mexican for killing grouse out of season. He plead guilty and was fined $25 and costs of $11.

A shop for the manufacture of Forest Service signs is to be run in Denver again this winter. The sign work will be under the supervision of Forest Examiner Hutchinson, with Ranger Frank H.Bailey, of the Sopris National Forest, in charge of the actual construction. Mr.Bailey is to be assisted by Rangers Peck, of the Routt, Doering, of the Rio Grande, and Gallegos, of the Cochetopa Forest.

Twelve miles of the Continental Divide trail on the divide between the Rio Grande, San Juan and Durango Forests, were completed during the year. The contract was let for 18 miles, but labor conditions prevented its completion.

Ranger Henry L. Spencer, of the Uncompahgre Forest, has submitted his resignation, planning to go into the sheep business at Montrose, Colo.

Ranger H. C. Langston has resigned from the Arapaho Forest to enter the ranch and cattle business on the White River Forest.

Rangers Leighou of the Black Hills, and Olds of the Harney, have been detailed to the Superior Forest to make appraisal of 50 million feet of timber for which tentative application has been made.

District Engineer Pratt has received a letter from Corporal John Burgess (formerly surveyor-draftsman) now at Camp Funston, in which he states that he hopes to enter the officers' training camp in January. Friends of Burgess in this office were pleased to note his breaking into "Who's Who" in the Saturday Evening Post. His smiling countenance, sans write-up, appeared in the group of Sammies entertaining and being entertained by Madam Schumann-Heink. See picture on Page 25 of the Saturday Evening Post of November 24. We expect to see something of John for himself, by himself, one of these days.

Notes from District 3

The Christmas committee has shipped seventeen boxes to District 3 men now in France, and five boxes of gifts for distribution in the 10th Engineers. Each individual gift consisted of 20 cakes of milk chocolate, 10 tins of Prince Albert and Tuxedo tobacco, 8 sacks of Bull Durham tobacco, 10 packages of chewing gum, 10 packages of mints and wintergreens, 6 books of wheat-straw cigarette papers, 1 pack of playing cards. Each package contained a Christmas card in the name of the members of the Southwestern District. The five additional boxes contained smoking and chewing tobacco, cigarette papers, corncob pipes, playing cards, and two knitted mufflers. The total cost was $205.51. There is a balance on hand of $28.49. The disposition to be made of this will be announced later. Discounts of between 25 and 40 per cent on retail prices were obtained, so that it is safe to say that the saving offset the cost of packing and transportation.

Miss Shinn, of the Office of Lands, inaugurated and carried to completion a "Ribbon-Letter" of greetings and Christmas messages by the members of this office to members of the 10th. They were written on a long strip of adding-machine paper mounted on muslin.

"What are you knitting, my pretty maid?"
She purled, then dropped a stitch.
"A sock or a sweater, sir," she said,
And darned if I know which."

So far as we know, the champion-sized fire that has ever occurred on the Carson came off on the Taos District between November 8 and 14. All the factors for the large and exceedingly difficult fire to fight were present--extreme dryness, high winds, and almost inaccessible country. The fire was on the high, rough ridges on the east slope of Pueblo Peak, about twelve miles from Taos. Difficulty in securing men for the first two days prevented a successful attack of the fire until the sheriff of the county was appealed to and sent out a large force of men who were practically deputized for the work. Supervisor Barker was in direct charge of the fire and was assisted by Ranger Dwire in directing the work. Approximately 560 acres were burned over and the cost of fighting the fire will be something over $400.

Aspen telephone poles are giving satisfactory service in this District. On the Manzano treated aspen poles are in good condition six years after being set. On the Carson untreated aspen poles which were set when green were found to be in good condition after all the yellow pine and Douglas fir poles, set at the same time, had rotted off at the ground. The main objection to aspen is based on its tendency to become brittle with age. This can be overcome by selecting good-sized poles.

A forty-acre fire recently occurred at Elden Mountain, on the Coconino, in a stock-excluded area where the dry grass caused the flames to spread rapidly.

Forest officers from the Carson and Santa Fe report an alarming shortage of blue grouse this year. It is believed that a yearlong closed season on these birds is necessary.

Notes from District 4

It has been decided that a meeting of the Supervisors in the District who have been appointed within the last year will be held at Ogden some time between December 5 and 20. This meeting is being arranged primarily for the purpose of taking up Forest matters with men who have not as yet become thoroughly familiar with them. An informal program will be arranged, and, while no set papers or talks will be had, a variety of topics will be discussed.

A number of Rangers from this District have either entered military service, resigned from the Service, or been furloughed for various reasons. Consequently we have a considerable number of statutory positions vacant for short periods during the winter months. In order to make use of these positions, road crews are being organized on some of the Forests, and men in these crews will fill the statutory positions during the short periods they would otherwise be vacant.

A rather extensive lecture campaign on range management is being conducted by the Forest Service in cooperation with the States Relations Service. These illustrated lectures are devoted mainly to cooperative management of cattle on National Forest ranges. Approximately eighty communities within the intermountain region will be visited before spring. Wherever possible our representative will deliver one or two lectures at the regular Farmers' Institutes or "Round-ups" arranged by the Extension officers. The greater number of these lectures, however, will be delivered at stockmen's meetings called especially for the purpose of discussing Forest range matters.

It has been recognized for some time that the handling of cattle upon the National Forests presents more difficult problems than the management of sheep. Under our present policy it appears that the only chance of improving conditions with respect to the management of cattle must come through more organized effort. The main object of this campaign is to encourage cooperation and point out the great need of organization, and discuss specifically the particular phases of range management that must be handled cooperatively. The lantern slides used in these lectures have been prepared from photographs taken at various places in the District during the past few seasons. The subject of forage utilization, involving salting, herding, common use grazing, and range improvements, are fully illustrated and discussed.

Doing His "Bit"

Ranger Taylor of the Humboldt Forest believes in food conservation. Last summer he "put up" eighty glasses of first-class wild currant jelly. The quality is vouched for by Mr. DeMoisy. Mr. Taylor used bottles with the tops knocked off as containers.

(From "The Intermountain Review Ranger")

Some time ago reports were desired of cases of heroism or special services on the part of Rangers' wives. Several cases are reported of wild night rides, fire fighting, etc., but no one seems to have mentioned the Ranger's wife who managed to cook the meals for ten days, while her F. R. was off on a pack trip, her only fuel being a diminutive but inexhaustible chip pile. Do you know her? Any one can fight fire, but it takes a heroine to burn chips for a week and then greet the man of the house upon his return with a smile instead of an axe.

Notes from District 5

Mr. W. R. Chapline, who has been studying goat grazing in Districts 3, 5, and 6, is in a San Francisco hospital with an infected hand caused by a large sliver being accidentally driven into it. As soon as he is well enough, Mr. Chapline will return to Washington.

The California Cattlemen's Protective Association has recently been reorganized and incorporated as the State Stock Association. On November 3 a meeting was held at the Palace Hotel, San Francisco, and attended by representative cattlemen from all over the State. The Association as organized has about 100 members owning

fifty thousand head of cattle. A board of directors was elected, which has appointed a manager who will devote his time to the interests of the Association. This Association will absorb the local stock associations that have been organized in the past by the Forest Service among permittees running stock on the National Forests. Its chief object will be to promote all the interests of the stock owners in California, particularly as regards legislation and problems of breeding, range, markets and transportation.

Notes from District 6

The Washington State Land Exchange has progressed so far that permit has been given for the Forest Service to sell timber on school lands which are being tendered for exchange, provided a separate account of the funds collected from this timber be kept. This is a great convenience in timber sale administration, for land claimed by the State has, in the past, frequently interfered in making sales of Forest Service timber.

Forest Examiner Bruce Hoffman has returned from making an extensive examination in the North Fork Stillagaumish region on a pulp sale proposition. The area examined is being considered as a possible addition to a proposed large sale of pulp wood on the Snoqualmie.

Deputy Supervisor E. J. Fenby, who recently sustained serious injuries to his eyes while engaged in fire fighting on the Rainier, has gone to Baltimore, Maryland, to have his eyes treated.

Captain H. B. Oakleaf, of the U. S. Signal Corps, who has been on the Coast for several weeks on business connected with the logging and milling of spruce for aeroplane stock, has returned to Washington, D. C. Because of the great interest in spruce aroused by the need of this wood for aeroplane construction, the Office of Silviculture is receiving frequent calls for information regarding spruce on the National Forests of the District.

During the past field season eight lookout houses, constructed according to the standard plans, have been erected at suitable points on the National Forests of the District. These houses are 12 x 12 feet, with a 6 x 6 foot cupola, all enclosed by glass. A number of minor defects have shown up, but on the whole the standard house has proved very satisfactory.

Two large bridges constructed by the Forest Service have developed serious defects during the past field season, requiring extensive repairs. These defects might have proven much more expensive if they had not been discovered in time. These two cases point very clearly to the need of careful annual inspection of all the larger bridges, so that necessary repairs may be made before serious damage occurs.

In response to a letter from Mrs. Graves, in reference to knitting for members of the Forest regiments, Mrs. Whiting and Mrs. C. J. Buck have been appointed a committee to take up this work among the women of the District. A small quantity of yarn has been received and knitting work has already begun. More yarn has been ordered, which will be paid for with the surplus money from the ambulance fund. Considerably more will be needed and will be supplied by District office men. The women are taking an active interest in this work and it is believed a large number of garments will soon be ready for use.

Transportation on the Crater

In order to speed up the getting of men, supplies and equipment to forest fires, Supervisor Erickson of the Crater uses an auto truck into which are loaded not only men and outfit but also pack animals and equipment. After going as far as possible by auto the outfit is packed on the burros to the place it is needed.

On November 30 the Secretary executed the cooperative agreement with the State Highway Commission of Oregon and the Board of

County Commissioners for Jackson County, covering the survey, construction, and maintenance of the Jackson County section of the Medford-Klamath Falls Road. The project is 17 miles in length and entirely within the Oregon National Forest. The total estimated cost of location survey and construction is $72,373 and it is provided that the Department shall pay $34,437 and the local authorities the balance.

J. T. Jardine, Inspector of Grazing, of the Washington office, is in the District for a conference on grazing studies and other local grazing problems.

The tracing of the new half-inch scale base map of the Columbia has been completed and sent to the Forester's office for printing. This map includes much data secured by Forest Examiner Wernstedt by topo-photographic work. The new half-inch scale base map of the Snoqualmie is now being printed by the Forester. The Rainier, Colville and Whitman maps are practically completed. The work of compilation of the new half-inch scale map of the Santiam is completed. The U. S. Geological Survey, under anthority of the War Department, is mapping practically all of the unmapped country on the Siuslaw and Siskiyou National Forests. They are also mapping eight 15-minute quadrangles in Washington, five on the north side of the Olympic peninsula and three just north of Bellingham.

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WEEKLY BULLETIN

Forest Service - Washington Office

(Not for publication)

December 13, 1917.

The Forest Regiments and the Sweater Problem

The one thing which we know the men of the Forest Regiments need badly and at once is sweaters. Other knitted articles are needed too, but sweaters are needed most.

Organization for comforts work on behalf of these regiments began more than three months ago. Over $1,300 has been put into wool purchases - almost half as much as was paid to equip the two regiments with the Forest Service ambulances and kitchen trailers. Not only the women and the wives of men in the Service, but many outside friends have been at work. Meanwhile early fall has changed to severe winter cold.

What is the outcome? There were shipped to the 10th a month ago 95 sweaters, 18 pairs of wristlets, 9 pairs of socks, and 8 helmets, besides 90 knitted articles (of which about 35 were sweaters) secured through the personal efforts of Mrs. Kiefer, the mother of Captain Francis Kiefer. To the 20th we have supplied 201 sweaters, 115 pairs of wristlets, 40 mufflers, 12 helmets, and 27 comfort bags. Further, wool enough to make about 700 sweaters is in the hands of knitters in Washington or in the District offices.

On the other hand, requests received from 4 out of the 6 companies of the 10th include 515 sweaters, or four times the entire number sent; the Red Cross has had to supply 94 per cent of the 3,600 sweaters taken by battalions of the 20th that were about to leave; and it has been impossible to do anything for the new men of the 20th as they come in, cold though they have been in camp and often insufficiently clothed on arrival. Also, sweaters that are not started soon will not get to the men before the winter is almost over; and there will be nearly 5,000 more men of the 20th needing sweaters. The Red Cross is hard pushed to meet equally urgent demands on behalf of other troops.

Why has not more been done?

The answer to that question is found in the difficulties which have come up in obtaining money, wool supplies, and transportation. There have always been more knitters in sight than could be asked to work.

Money uncertainties have on the whole been the chief obstacle to pushing the work more energetically. It is hoped that this obstacle is about to be removed through assumption of responsibility by the Lumber and Forest Regiments Relief Committee. But even with money on hand, there are wool troubles. Wool can not be bought from wholesalers or mills without difficulties and delays, if at all. For the last two months our only sources of supply have been the Navy League and the Red Cross.

Red Cross wool is now much cheaper than Navy League wool, but is sold subject to the requirement that all garments made from it must go to the soldiers through the Red Cross.

For shipping garments abroad there are only two transportation agencies available - the Red Cross and the parcels post. The Red Cross does not ship garments from this side to individual men or individual army units. It fills up its Paris depot and distributes from there. Obviously this is good business. Army officers can requisition sweaters from Paris and be supplied without delay, if the sweaters are there. To send word to this side that sweaters are needed means a long wait. Before the sweaters get to the men for whom they are asked, they may have been supplied from some other source.

For example, before we can get to the 10th the 515 sweaters requested, some men may have had sweaters sent them by their families,

or the Red Cross may have been able to furnish the garments from Paris. In that case our sweaters reach men already taken care of, while other men in the 10th or in other army regiments may be sweaterless.

If looking after the needs of the Forest Regiments abroad involves putting our personal interest in individuals or in the Forest Regiments above our patriotic willingness to do our best for the National cause, our duty is clear. Our efforts must be directed to what will do the most good. There is plenty to do, and more than we can do, in any case. Therefore all who are willing to knit should ask for wool, and start their needles flying. The Women's Committee in Washington will try to see that the District offices receive all the wool they can use. If we can get sweaters and socks to our men overseas who need them, we will do so. If we can not, we will do our best for those on this side, and beyond that will direct our efforts to swelling the Paris supply of the Red Cross, from which all members of the American Expeditionary Forces can be equipped with the least delay, the least waste, and the most equitable allotment.

In short, there is an emergency need for all the sweaters that we can get made. The responsibility both for obtaining wool and for placing the sweaters rests with the Washington Office. The responsibility for organizing all the volunteer work that can be secured in each District rests with the District offices. But the final responsibility rests with those who can give their services as knitters. The work must be hastened or it will be too late. All along the line, the watchword should be "Get Busy!"

HERBERT A. SMITH.

Wood Fuel Campaign

The movement inaugurated by the Forest Service for using wood in place of coal this winter is spreading fast and bringing results. Practically the entire office force of Forest Investigations has been mobilized for the work of cooperating with the Fuel Administration, State forest Departments, and local committees in working out plans to increase the use of wood. The New England Wood Fuel Conference, held in Boston under the auspices of Mr. J. J. Storrow, Fuel Administrator for New England, has resulted in a "Cut-A-Cord" campaign, carried on by means of posters and newspaper publicity, in all of the six States. The Boston and Maine and New York, New Haven, and Hartford railroads have decided to stop burning their old ties along the right-of-way, and to dispose of them for fuel instead. The engineering department of the latter company is at work on a device to break or split ties by pressure in order to save sawing. The New Haven road has been burning 1,750,000 ties a year, estimated as equivalent to 30,000 tons of coal.

Several State Fuel Administrators, in line with a plan outlined by the Forest Service, are urging towns and cities to establish municipal woodyards, selling firewood at cost. In Tennessee wood fuel companies have been organized in practically every county by patriotic citizens. Six per cent on the money invested is all the profit charged by these concerns, which are retailing firewood for $5.50 and stove wood for $6.50 a cord. Such ideal conditions apparently do not exist in the vicinity of Washington, for a member of the Service living in Montgomery County, Maryland, who purchased a cord the other day paid $15 for it.

Water Power Legislation

It looks as though some constructive water power legislation would be considered during the present session of Congress. At the suggestion of the Service, a committee consisting of Mr. O. C. Merrill, Chief Engineer, representing the Secretary of Agriculture, General Black, Chief of Engineers, representing the Secretary of War, and Mr. E. C. Finney, of the Board of Appeals, and Mr. Lathrop Brown, Assistant to the Secretary, representing the Secretary of the

Interior, has drawn up a tentative bill providing for the use of all water powers in any way under the control of the Federal Government. This draft has been submitted to the three Secretaries concerned. If approved by them and by the President, it will then become the Administration's water power measure.

Acquisition of Lands

At a meeting of the National Forest Reservation Commission, held December 12, some 65,900 acres of land were approved for purchase, mainly in Virginia, New Hampshire, and North Carolina.

The Commission decided not to make any further purchases of land in Georgia as long as there remains in force a law now on the State's statute books which prevents condemnation of lands by the Federal Government without the consent of the owner. This law, it is believed, does not reflect a public sentiment in Georgia against the condemnation of land for National Forest purposes, but merely the activities of a few large timberland owners who fear that, through condemnation proceedings, they may not receive as high a price for their lands as they think they should.

Mr. W. L. Brady, of the Forest Service, was elected Secretary of the Commission, in place of Mr. R. A. Hayes, Private Secretary to the Secretary of War, who has acted in that capacity since the Commission's establishment.

Washington Office Notes

Mr. Don Carlos Ellis has been detailed by the Secretary to act as Special Assistant in the office of Assistant Secretary Ousley for the purpose of developing the motion-picture and correlated activities of the Department. The detail is temporary, and Mr. Ellis will continue to carry on such of his Service work as it is impracticable to provide for otherwise.

Mr. J. A. Mitchell has returned from a three-months' Weeks Law inspection trip through the Lake States and the Southeast.

Professor R. C. Bryant, of the Yale Forest School, is in Washington for the purpose of reviewing the report on the southern pine industry. Professor Bryant says that Washington in war time is no place for a man who likes to sleep somewhere else than on a park bench. Eventually he may not have anything as restful as a bench, for he has been recommended for a commission as major in the 20th Engineers.

Mr. H. S. Sackett, formerly in charge of the Chicago Office of Products, was a visitor on December 12. Mr. Sackett came to Washington as a representative of the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railway to try to get some lumber released to the railroad for the repair of freight cars.

Mr. F. J. Hallauer, of the Forest Products Laboratory, is in Washington for a few days en route to Madison after attending a meeting in New York of fruit and vegetable packers. His presence at the meeting was in connection with the Laboratory's tests of wooden containers.

NOTES OF THE FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY

Inspection of Airplane Glues

Inspectors W. L. Jones and O. W. Torgeson of the United States Signal Corps have been assigned to the Laboratory for the purpose of testing all glues to be used in the construction of American airplanes. Samples of every glue intended for such use must be tested and certified by them before the glue leaves the factory. No blanket certificate is issued for any certain brand of glue; in fact, a sample is required from every barrel, and the glue is released only in 30,000 pound lots. Glue which has been certified for use in airplane manufacture can not be sold or used for any other purpose.

The specification under which the glue will be tested is essentially as recommended by the Laboratory. When discussed at a recent conference in Chicago, the specification met with the entire approval of the glue manufacturers.

Section of Lumbering

A department recently established at the Forest Products Laboratory is the Section of Lumbering. Its activities are directed by Mr. Henry J. Hegel, who returned to the Service from the General Electric Company, Schenectady, N. Y. By collecting important data relating to the lumber manufacturing industry, the department expects to offer practical assistance to the manufacturers in solving various commercial problems. At present two studies have been completed; one of the availability of hardwoods used in airplanes, and the other of the status of the veneer industry.

Forest Service Dry Kilns at Work

Fifty-two dry kilns of the type perfected at the Forest Products Laboratory are at work for national defense, in airplane factories, in shops manufacturing army escort wagons, and in the navy yards.

Notes from District 1

A careful study of the different factors contributing to a fire season shows that the season of 1917 was one of the worst on record from the standpoint of the fire hazard. A brief summary of these factors shows the following pertinent points:

In Montana as a whole the summer of 1917 was the driest on record. For Idaho the records show that 1910 was slightly drier than 1917. In both States there was an unusual amount of hot, clear weather, especially in July and August. A total of 1,422 fires was reported in the District. Of these 46.5 per cent were Class A, 28 per cent Class B and 25.5 per cent Class C. This is the smallest percentage of Class A fires on record, the largest of Class B except in 1914, and the largest of Class C except in 1910 and 1911. The percentage of fires caused by lightning was unusually low, and that of fires caused by railroads lower than usual. Campers, brush-burning, and incendiary fires each had the largest number of record. 164,324 acres of National Forest land and 71,918 acres of other lands were burned over. This is less than one-tenth of the area burned in 1910. The estimated damage of $360,000 is less than 1/65 of the estimated damage in 1910. The 605,000 spent in fighting fires means an expenditure of 2.69¢ per acre of net National Forest land, which is 1.78¢ per acre more than normal; and of $9 per $1,000 of estimated value, which is $6.01 more than normal.

Notes from District 2

Colorado this year experienced one of the greatest tourist seasons in its history. Over 300,000 people visited the Denver mountain parks during the months of June, July and August, and over 100,000 people visited Estes Park. The National Forests also shared in this increased travel. Late reports from Supervisors, based on a tally of visitors and data secured from railroads, resorts, etc., indicate over 845,000 recreation visitors between May 1 and October 31, and 142,500 automobiles are reported to have toured the Forests. The time spent by campers, sportsmen and motorists averaged two days each.

The Colorado Mountain Club, in cooperation with the Forest Service, is issuing a booklet descriptive of scenic attractions and mountain trips in the region covered by the Longs Peak Quadrangle sheet of the U. S. Geological Survey. This publication is extensively illustrated and will contain the best data available on the outdoor life feature of the Rocky Mountain National Park and the Colorado and Arapaho National Forests.

Estimates and recommendations for range improvements for the next fiscal year, amounting to $23,434, have been received. The Forester has been asked for $14,608, which is about $6,000 more than was received last year. Fully 15,000 cattle and 30,000 sheep are dependent upon the construction of the projects recommended, not to mention the great saving in losses which will result from the amounts spent for larkspur eradication.

In the interests of the grazing business in the Green River country it is proposed to transfer the Bridger Forest, in District 2 to District 4, and to readjust the boundaries among the Wyoming, Teton and Bridger Forests to comprise a natural grazing unit.

While blasting post holes for the construction of a corral at the Redskin Ranger Station on the Pike Forest, Ranger Parrett and Orvel Meskimen, a temporary laborer, were severely injured about their faces on November 28th by the explosion of a charge of dynamite. The men had been experiencing considerable difficulty in igniting fuses and in this particular instance the fuse having been lighted failed to display the natural signs of life by "spitting." Both were standing over the fuse, and Meskimen, an experienced powder man, was preparing to leave when the explosion occurred. First-aid treatment was rendered by Ranger Parrett's wife and the men were brought to Denver and taken to Mercy Hospital. It is believed that Ranger Parrett will recover the sight of both eyes, while Meskimen may lose the sight of one of his eyes.

Notes from District 3

All Arizona supervisors have been appointed deputy health inspectors by the State Board of Health. The New Mexico Board has not yet acted on a similar plan agreed to by them.

State Game Warden Ronald recently stated that the deputy game wardens recommended by the Forest officers had on the average turned out to be better qualified and more active than deputies obtained from any other source.

Notes from District 4

The employees of the Ogden District Office, the Supply Depot, and the Office of the Property Auditor have formed what will be known as the Forest Service War Gift Association of District 4.

Each member of this association is voluntarily pledged to contribute one per cent of every salary check received during the balance of the war to a common fund, to be used in meeting the constantly arising solicitations for war gifts of all kinds. The affairs of the association are to be administered by a directing committee of five. This committee is charged with the work of collecting, recording, and disbursing all funds of the association. Soliciting among the individual members is intended to be eliminated. All requests for contributions to a war gift fund will be referred to the chairman of the directing committee. The committee as a whole will pass upon the merits of the project and determine what amount, if any, will be donated by the association.

The pledged membership of the association is sufficient to guarantee a monthly income of about $75 or $80. It is thought that this amount will enable the association to meet every reasonable request for contributions of this nature, and the fact that it is given in a lump sum through an association will insure a creditable showing for the local Forest Service organization.

The first donation of the association was a gift of $50 to the War Camp Community Recreation Fund, just raised. The second was one of approximately $35 to pay for the yarn recently sent out from the East for the use of the Service ladies in knitting clothing for men in the forestry units. Every member of the association is an enthusiastic booster for the plan, and it seems assured of a successful and useful career.

One of the stipulations in the contract in a sale of timber made by a private party on the Sevier was that the purchaser should dispose of the tops and "make them look like the tops do at Croft's mill," referring to a Forest Service timber sale nearby.

Gems from June 11 (1906) Applicants

"Kind Sir:
My boy John was either drowned or killed on January 30th. I haven't found his body so you can see that he don't want the land."

"Dear Sir:
As I am getting past middle age and may be called away at any time, I wish you would have my land examined."

"Having a slight attack of getting-home fever I am anxious in regard to my application. If you should consider that I am somewhat previous, put me down as being on the stool of anxiety."

"This Ranger has neither truth nor veracity."

"If you or Bill Durbin had of examined this ground instead of them Kindergarten Children I know either of you would of allowed me the amount I asked."

Notes from District 5

Resignations and difficulty in securing clerical help are giving a great deal of trouble. During the past five days seven regisnations have been received, among which were three from men who have been in the Service a long time--Ranger F. H. Smith, District Office, Lewis Bach, Chief Clerk on the Stanislaus, and R. W. Taylor, Forest Examiner on the Plumas.

Gordon E. True, professor of animal husbandry, University of California, has discussed with the Office of Grazing a plan of the University to purchase 300 cattle and place them on an ordinary range. This band is to be composed of one, two, and three-year olds, and will be studied from the viewpoint of care, feeding, handling, and breeding. A special study will be made of the problems of decreasing loss from predatory animals, poisonous plants, and stock diseases, and of increasing the calf crop. The last legislature appropriated $60,000 for this experiment. Ranges on the Modoc, Stanislaus, and Sierra Forests are under consideration.

As a measure looking toward increased efficiency in fire prevention and suppression each Supervisor has been asked to compile for his Forest and for each of his ranger districts figures for the years 1911 to 1917, inclusive, showing (1) number of man-caused fires each year, (2) number of rangers and guards on duty each season, and (3) suppression costs for each year. When these figures have been made available a series of meetings will be held on each Forest for the supervisors and rangers, which will be attended by the Acting District Forester and others whom he may designate. A study of the local situation as disclosed by figures will be made, and plans for next season's fire prevention and suppression work will be discussed.

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Forest Service - Washington Office

(Not for publication)

December 20, 1917.

The Automobile versus the Saddle Horse

More and more Forest officers are using the automobile as a means of getting about on their official duties. The value of the machine as a time-saver when long distances have to be traveled is unquestioned, and its use in many instances has been a great aid to efficient administration. But the flivver may be overworked.

First of all, the maximum number of miles traveled in the minimum length of time does not necessarily mean the most work accomplished with the greatest efficiency. In none of the Forests are there roads enough to enable Forest officers to go by motor to all points that ought to be covered. Because a machine will make twenty miles an hour on a road and a saddle horse will make only three miles an hour on a trail is no reason in itself for sticking to the road. There may be something along the trail that ought to be looked after and nothing along the road. It is far better to spend three days on horseback covering fifty miles through a country where the range requires close inspection or where intensive fire patrol is necessary than to spend half a day in a machine covering one hundred miles outside the Forest, even though both routes lead to the same ultimate destination.

Not even a saddle horse can go to every one of the remote points, and the officer who rides must sometimes get off and hoof it. How much more the man who drives a car! Granted that a Ford can go almost any place where there is room for the four wheels, the fact remains that in the National Forests are areas which do not offer room even for a Ford, and which are miles away from any road. A Forest officer who does his traveling in a machine must be prepared to supplement his driving with a whole lot of foot work. And in this connection he should consider carefully whether the time saved in traveling twenty miles over a road is going to be any good to him when he can not go beyond the end of the road unless he gets out and walks.

One trouble about getting the "flivver habit" firmly fixed is that pretty soon we may come to regard walking for a few miles or straddling a horse for a few days as a great hardship. That is a point we don't want to reach, whether we happen to be a ranger, a supervisor, or an inspecting officer from the District office or from Washington. The automobile has its place in National Forest work, and it should be used to the greatest extent consistent with good administration. What we need to do is to keep it in its place; to be sure that its use is not dictated mainly by considerations of personal comfort or convenience.

F. W. REED.

A Correction

The statement made in the Weekly Bulletin of December 6 that "the Secretary may claim such deferred classification for a member of the Department at any time previous to that at which the man in question is actually ordered for duty in the army" was in error, since it is the desire of the Provost Marshal General that all claims be filed within the seven-day limit prescribed by Section 94 of the Selective Draft Regulations. It is felt, however, that in cases where it is not possible to comply strictly with this requirement, the local and district boards will consider the reasons which may be given for the delay.

Shields Bill Passed by Senate

The Shields water power bill was passed by the Senate on December 13. This bill provides for leasing power sites on navigable streams for periods of 50 years, reserving to the Government the right to purchase the power properties at the expiration of the leases at the valuation they then have. The bill has not yet been reported out by the House committee having it in charge.

Washington Office Notes

Mr. Jardine returned to Washington on December 19 from an inspection of the Jornada and Santa Rita Range Reserves and conferences with the grazing men at all the District offices. He reports fine results from last summer's efforts to increase meat production on the Forests and a good outlook for similar efforts next year.

Mr. Dana gave a talk at the Pennsylvania Forest Academy at Mount Alto early in the week on some of the war work of the Service. On the way home he stopped at Harrisburg for a conference with the State Forester regarding the wood fuel situation. One of the State forests in Pennsylvania is supplying large quantities of cordwood to consumers at very reasonable prices.

Fire Trespass

Lumberjack - floater - may be I. W. W. - collector of shoes - "my time" - town - booze - more booze - back to woods on logger - narrow, pointed dress shoes on feet, hobnailed shoes in sack - maudlin talk with skidding crew - class A fire in brush - skidding crew on job - second fire at steam skidder on Government land - third fire on private land, company camp in ashes - ranger on job - tracks of narrow dress shoes from railroad to first fire, to second fire, to near camp - sheriff on job - arrest - charge, arson - bond of $1500 or jail - no friends with that much property - jail - trial in State courts in April - if acquittal, second arrest for violation Section 52, Criminal Code U. S.

Society of American Foresters Meeting

The meeting of the Society of American Foresters at Pittsburgh, in connection with the sessions of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, is scheduled for December 31 and January 1. A program of more than twenty papers has been arranged. In the forenoon of the first day of the meeting a joint session will be held with the Ecological Society of America, at which some ten papers will be read.

News of the Forest Products Laboratory

The "Tie Guide" is being rivaled in popularity by Bulletin 556, "The Mechanical Properties of Woods Grown in the United States." Although published only in September, the edition is already exhausted. Requests for the book have been received from technical men in all parts of this country and from army engineers and scientists in many of the countries of our Allies. The authors of this bulletin are Mr. J. A. Newlin and Mr. T. R. C. Wilson of the Section of Timber Tests.

Because of the constantly increasing consumption of acetate of lime, used in the manufacture of high explosives, the laboratory has brought to attention a source of this chemical heretofore disregarded; namely, the pyroligneous acid from pine wood distillation plants. At a conference with the Signal Equipment Officers and a laboratory representative, many of the distillers of the Southern pine region expressed their willingness to install immediately the necessary apparatus for recovering the acetate. The laboratory will act in an advisory capacity in the work.

At the request of the American Bureau of Shipping, the laboratory has prepared a chapter on timber to incorporate in the Revised Rules, governing the construction of all wooden ships for the Emergency Fleet Corporation. One of the important items included in this chapter is a new grading rule for ship timbers.

The detonating fuses for shells are not required to voyage overseas in common tin or fiber boxes, along with the rest of army supplies. They travel in special upholstered compartments, or trays, the rigid construction of which has been the object of much experimentation. The only fuse tray at present allowed by the Ordnance Department is one made up of five-ply wood veneer. Another type of tray has been developed by the laboratory, of solid lumber, having hardwood splines inserted in the ends to guard against splitting. As this tray, in shock-resisting ability, has proved equal or superior to the veneer tray, and as it can be manufactured without special equipment, the laboratory has recommended that it be admitted as an alternate type of construction.

District 1

Mr. Lenthal Wyman, who has just returned from an inspection of the Cabinet, Pend Oreille, Kootenai, Kaniksu, and Flathead, reports no insect infestations on these Forests sufficiently serious to warrant control work, except in the Swan River region of the Flathead, where the low value of the timber involved and its inaccessibility make such measures inadvisable. Mr. Malven, who was formerly in charge of this work, has turned over to Mr. Wyman a collection of insects which he made, and this collection will now be kept in the District office.

The Nezperce will build three-quarters of a mile of road, costing $150, within a short distance of Grangerville, which will make cordwood available to the ranchers in that vicinity, where the supply is very inadequate.

Mr. U. S. Swartz has gone to the Coeur d'Alene, where he will be engaged for about two weeks on timber appraisal work.

Mr. J. W. Girard has returned from the Kootenai, where he made an examination of the timber on the South Fork of Calahan Creek. Prospects for a sale of the timber seem very good. If a sale is made it will be necessary to transport the logs over the Snowstorm Mines Consolidated Company's narrow gauge railroad. This matter was taken up with the company and the president expressed a willingness to give it favorable consideration, and seemed entirely willing to do anything he could in the way of transportation.

District 2

The census of visitors on the National Forests of District 2 during the summer of 1917, including residence permittees, campers, hunters and fishermen, motorists, excursionists, pedestrians and other travelers, shows an increase of 47 per cent over the 1916 estimate. The total number of visitors was 984,365, divided by states as follows: Colorado, 853,307; Wyoming, 48,061; South Dakota, 62,707; Michigan, 11,755; Minnesota, 7,067; Nebraska, 1,468.

Three fire trespass cases against the Colorado, Wyoming & Eastern Railroad, involving damages approximating $17,500, on the Colorado and Medicine Bow Forests, were reported to the Forester during the past week.

The annual game reports from the Bighorn, Rio Grande, and Sopris indicate a healthy increase in the number of elk and deer over last year's figures. Mountain sheep, while holding their own on the Rio Grande, show a material increase on the Bighorn and Sopris. Beaver were also reported increasing on the Bighorn and Rio Grande. Bears show a slight increase on the Bighorn and Sopris.

Representatives of the Roaring Forks, South Side, Grand Valley, and Eagle River Live Stock Associations met with the County Agent and forest officers at Glenwood Springs, Colorado, on December 15, for the purpose of appointing a committee for the purchase of bulls for the use of the members of the four associations. This action was taken with a view to standardization of stock and to buying

in lots. At the meeting questions of game propagation and protection in the interest of the livestock business were also discussed.

While in the office last week Mr. Jardine of the Washington office announced that all grazing reconnaissance by parties has been discontinued in all of the Districts for the period of the war. Reconnaissance funds will be devoted to grazing inspection in order to secure from all Forests as soon as possible information to be used as a basis for war emergency increases. Carrying capacity and improved methods of distribution and handling stock will receive special attention.

The following letter, quoted from the District 2 Bulletin, was written by John Burgess from Camp Funston:

"Dust, wind, men; men, wind and dust; dust on everything, in everything; men everywhere, from everywhere, in anything; wind from every direction, every minute. Such are first impressions of Camp Funston. Later other things are discovered. There are rows upon rows of unpainted wooden buildings with black rubbercid roofs, dimly seen in clouds of dust. There are hundreds of motor trucks and automobiles stirring up the dust. There are low brown hills looking down on all the dust.

"Moving in, around, through and on all these are men--men in woolen uniforms, men in khaki uniforms, men in blue overall and jumper uniforms, men in cover-all uniforms, men in cook's uniforms, men in no uniforms. Men with rifles, men with wooden guns, men with sticks, men with no weapons. Looking from the top of the brown hills, from horizon to horizon, men everywhere, mixed with dust. Dust on their shoes, dust in their hair, dust in their eyes, dust in their ears, dust in their mouths.

"In the buildings, men--men resting on cots, men standing, men walking, men reading, men writing, men playing cards, men telling yarns, men smoking, men dreaming of the girl they left behind, men complaining about being here, men cussing the grub, men kicking about the officers, men swearing at the local boards that would not exempt them, men grouchy about cold weather, men complaining, cussing, kicking, swearing, about dust, wind and flatness, Kansas.

"Outside, men drilling, drilling along dusty roads, drilling in front of barracks, drilling on hill tops, drilling in valleys, drilling from early morning to late afternoon."

District 3

Deputy Supervisor Wylder reports that the new office building at the Grand Canyon is now completed. It is a log structure and is planned to make possible the addition of an educational exhibit room at a later date. Mr. Wylder expresses himself as much pleased with both its arrangement and appearance.

More Gems from June 11 Applicants

"My father and mother died and left me an orphan at the age of 31."

"I am proped againe a tree with a 38 Winchester bullet hole thru my brest and sholder and am kept too buissy flirting with the undertaker to attend the buziness. So here is the way it looks to me, 'tis a toss of the dice whether I want land or wings." (Since no further word has been received from this applicant, it is assumed that he got both the land (4-ft. x 8-ft.) and the wings).

"But there is one thing I want you to understand, you can take a run and a jump and give yourself a kick and when you hear from me next i will still Be Hear."

The Historical Society of New Mexico has decided to collect for permanent preservation the portraits of the soldiers of New Mexico taking part in the war. The word "soldier" includes all who follow the flag on land or sea or in the air, and the Secretary requests that photographs be furnished for this purpose. Any photographs sent to this office will be forwarded to the Society for action.

District 4

In order that the District office might keep in closer touch with grazing conditions on the various Forests, a number of the Studies men were assigned to grazing inspection work during the past season. Three men spent their entire time, from August 1 to about October 20, on this work covering three Forests each. Others were employed on special cases and gave as much attention to range inspection as the stress of other work would permit.

The inspection was in the nature of an extensive reconnaissance confined principally to the cattle ranges. Particular attention was given to the question of carrying capacity, adaptability of the range to the classes of stock, methods of management, salting, distribution of stock, quality and number of bulls, possible improvements to increase carrying capacity, poisonous plants, and various other matters.

The employment of the Studies men for range inspection work has made it possible to give particular attention to range conditions on twelve of the Forests of the District, while in the past where inspection work has been confined to the grazing administrative officers it has been possible to cover in connection with other work an average of six Forests each season. In some instances where conditions required special attention the work was in such detail as made it almost equivalent to intensive reconnaissance.

The reports from these inspections which have been prepared indicate that splendid results can be expected from this system. It is expected that it will be possible to cover the balance of the Forests in this District the coming season. Stress is laid upon the inspection work at this time with a view of insuring complete utilization of forage resources to aid in production of meat, wool, and hides, and at the same time avoid permanent injury to the range.

To aid in the conservation of livestock products, the Utah State Livestock Board issued an order this fall requiring that all cattle from three months to two years of age be vaccinated for blackleg between September 15 and November 15, 1917. According to reports of field officers of the Service, the order has probably not been uniformly followed, but it is believed that the order will result in considerable benefit. It is probable that a similar order may be issued next spring. If this is done, a more rigid enforcement of the order will doubtless be secured through cooperation with the Forest Service.

District 5

Several good-sized timber sales are pending in the District. These include 230 million feet on the Lassen Forest (including the Norval Flat-McCoy chance), 22 million feet now being advertised on the Klamath upon application of the Fruit Growers' Supply Co., and 26 million feet along the Hetch Hetchy Railroad on the Stanislaus Forest under advertisement. Application for the latter chance was made by the Peach Growers' Association of Fresno.

The net receipts from timber sales for the fiscal year to November 30 were $130,000, as compared with $84,000 for the same period last year. District 5 now holds second place in timber-sale receipts, and is led only by District 6.

Forest Examiners Birch, Hopping, Evans, Show, Wulff, and Lumberman Ellicott are in the District Office. Forest Examiner Birch is working up data on felling, bucking, limbing and snag-falling secured in the operations of the Spanish Peak Lumber Co. and the Red

River Lumber Co. last season. Forest Examiner Hopping is preparing a report on insect surveys made last season on public and private timberlands south of the Rubicon River. No alarming situations were disclosed; the worst infestation was found to be on the Sequoia. There are prospects of two control projects being undertaken next season in this office. Forest Examiner Evans and party covered 25,000 acres in a timber survey project on the Trinity last season. Maps and estimates are now being prepared. Lumberman Elliott is busy with the estimate, which will probably total 375 million feet. Forest Examiner Show is working up the results of the remeasurement of the several remaining methods of cutting study plots. He is also working up the planting investigative reports.

Forest Examiner Larsen on the Tahoe has resigned. This, with the recent resignation of Taylor on the Plumas, leaves the Forests shorthanded in timber-sale men, just as the business is increasing.

District 6

The Oregon State Board of Forestry held a meeting at the District Forester's office December 14. Besides transacting routine business, the Board passed a resolution offering its assistance to Colonel Disque of the United States Signal Corps, in his work of speeding up the getting out of spruce for airplane construction.

A note recently received from Lieutenant K. P. Cecil, at Fort Stevens, announces the promotion of James Frankland from 2nd to 1st Lieutenant in the Oregon Coast Artillery. Frankland was formerly engaged in the topographic work in the District Forester's office.

Two sales of airplane timber, totaling 4,600,000 feet, on the Olympic have been made to the C. P. Adams Lumber Company, of Aberdeen, Washington. For 3 million feet a price of $5.76, or $1.26 per thousand higher than the advertised price, was obtained. Spruce will be the only species cut, except for the small amounts of cedar, Douglas fir, and hemlock needed in logging operations.

The Cooperative Buying Association, made up of members of the District Forester's office, has entered its second year of existence. By pooling their grocery orders and purchasing from the lowest bidder, members of the Association save from 10 to 20 per cent over the retail cost of supplies.

Advertisement has been authorized for 24,000,000 feet of spruce and 750,000 feet of hemlock on Long Island on the Tongass National Forest of Alaska. This body of spruce is said to be as fine as any in Alaska and is especially adapted to airplane purposes. Several persons are interested in outting the spruce. It will be advertised in two blocks of 16,000,000 and 8,000,000 feet, at $2.50 per thousand for spruce and 50 cents per thousand for hemlock.

Forest Examiner A. J. Jaenicke, assigned to insect control work in District 5, left Portland December 14 for an extensive vacation trip which includes San Francisco, Flagstaff and Albuquerque, Colorado Springs, St. Louis, Fort Wayne, Ind., and New York. He will be gone approximately a month.

Lieutenant R. H. Weitknecht, formerly assigned to Forest Investigations in the District office, left Portland December 15 for the Atlantic Coast.

The District Office Women's Committee, engaged in doing welfare work for the men of the Forest Regiment, has received a new supply of yarn. Material enough has now been put out for making about 100 sweaters. Four completed sweaters have already been turned in to the Committee.

A new form of caliper has been devised in District 6 for scaling logs in the water for use in Alaska. It is similar to the present 60" tree calipers, except that the beam is marked with the decimal C, log scale for log lengths 14 to 32 feet. A slight change has also been made in the adjusting mechanism of the movable arm in order to insure permanency to the adjustment. All metal parts will be made of brass to permit use of the instrument in water.

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WEEKLY BULLETIN

Forest Service - Washington Office

(Not for publication)

December 27, 1917

Our Duty

We are proud to think that as the United States faces a national crisis that calls for the highest sacrifices, the Forest Service spirit of loyalty and devotion will be signally shown. We have both traditions and training to help us worthily take our share in the greatest task that the country has ever undertaken. What will our record be?

That depends very largely on how, as individuals, we stand the test to which we are being put. It is not merely a test of willingness to fight. The number of those who must do their duty at home is greater than the number of those privileged to bear arms. Unless those who stay at home do their part, and do it well, those who go to fight will go in vain. The strength or the weakness of the country, the future of our national history, turn on the question of our willingness to help and to endure, in the common cause.

Everybody is doubtless ready to agree to this, when it is put merely as a generality. The fact remains that we have not yet got to the point of sensing fully what the thing means, in practical application to ourselves.

Our military authorities believe that we are in for a much longer and harder struggle than the country at large has yet waked up to. Great sacrifices will have to be made. Patriotism will have to be shown in other ways than by lip-service. It is a time for each one to ask himself the question, "What am I willing to give?"

It is not a time to ask, "What can I get, for myself or for my family?" There are going to be many temptations for those who are desirous to get ahead. If all were to look at the matter as they would be justified in doing in ordinary times, the Forest Service would hardly hold together. We must think of the many, many men who under the draft not only take their chances of life or death but also leave behind them families in circumstances altered much for the worse. We must think too of the many who, of their own choice, are giving up large incomes and advantageous prospects, sacrificing oftentimes positions in their professions or businesses won through years of struggle, to take places paying but a fraction of what they have had in private work. It is each man's duty to find out now in what way he can do most for his country, and then try to do it.

Further, there is need for us to be patient in the midst of difficulties and discouragements which are bound to arise because of the war. It will be harder to carry on our work. The load will be heavier, and the conditions trying. Many things will have to be referred to Washington in order to insure conformity to the general policy of the Department, which in ordinary times could be handled more simply. From the field end the requirements may sometimes seem unreasonable. It must be the part of loyalty to take things as they come, to trust to the judgment of those upon whom responsibility rests, and to see that individually we do our share by doing our best work, to the end that the war may be won, and we may have helped win it.

A.F. POTTER.

By Way of Explanation and Appreciation

The holiday season is reflected in the comparatively scant amount of news in the Bulletin this week, Nothing was received from several of the districts, and the Laboratory is also among the missing. The blame can probably be laid on the mails, which were swamped with the Christmas rush.

We might take this occasion to thank the districts and the Laboratory for the material they have sent in for the preceding issues of the Bulletin and to hope that the good work will continue. The more material we get, the better the Bulletin will be. Do not be discouraged if an item you submit does not appear in the next issue. The restriction as to size often makes it necessary to hold over material for future issues. The endeavor during the coming year of those responsible for getting out the Bulletin will be to make it increasingly interesting and valuable to members of the Service at home and abroad. We need your help in doing this, and we feel sure that we will get it. Contributions are invited from anyone who has an idea or a bit of news worth passing along.

State Cooperation

Mr. J. H. Foster, State Forester of Texas, announces that personal affairs which call him to New Hampshire for an indefinite period will make it necessary for him to resign his position on the first of March, 1918. The State Forester of Texas works under the supervision of the Board of Directors of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, at which institution he is in charge of the department of forestry with rank of full professor. The Board will probably be willing to pay the new State Forester a salary of $2,500 at the start. The requirements probably will include a master's degree in forestry and wide experience in practical forest work. It is doubtful whether the Board would be willing to accept a man of draft age.

The Legislative Assembly of Porto Rico recently passed an unusually comprehensive law, providing for an insular forest service, experiment station, and public forests in charge of a technically trained forester. The law was drafted by the Office of State Cooperation of the Forest Service, and the action of the Legislative Assembly is the result of an examination of and report on forest conditions in Porto Rico made by State Cooperation several years ago.

Mr. R. D. Forbes, formerly Assistant State Forester of New Jersey, has been appointed Superintendent of Forestry in Louisiana. Further evidence that Louisiana is beginning to take an active interest in forest conservation is the recent appointment by the Great Southern Lumber Company of a technically trained forester.

The 10th Engineers (Forest) in France

(From New York Lumber Trade Journal Journal, December 15, 1917).

Under date of November 10 from "Somewhere in France" Frank S. McNally, of the local selling staff of the A. Sherman Lumber Company, in a letter to George F. Gray, manager of the office, chronicles some of the doings of the 10th Engineers. The regiment arrived in Scotland early in October after an uneventful trip of approximately three weeks on the Atlantic. Arriving there they moved immediately across country to an English Channel port, where they remained at rest camp for several days before making the channel trip. From the French port a rail journey of two nights and a day brought the regiment to its station, where after a couple of weeks the regiment spread over the country. Mr. McNally's detachment, the first, under Lt. E. L. Lindsey, immediately set to work laying out a side track for the mill, and at the time the letter was written woods operating had been going on for some time, while getting out poles was the principal item of interest pending the arrival of the mill. The boys are quartered under canvas with a few old buildings for headquarters. In a barn nearby a clubhouse has

been set up where the boys mannage to knock out a pretty good time. Mr. McNally likens the operations in France to those in the Adirondacks. They are cutting practically all softwoods, Scotch pine and Norway spruce mostly, the latter, he says, being similar to our shortleaf.

The boys are all in good health, well fed and on the job from sunrise to sunset. Mr. McNally pays his respects to the officers and men in the regiment who, he says, are fine soldiers, first-class lumbermen and naturally good fellows.

Wood Fuel Marches On

The Fuel Administration has agreed to pay the expenses of all men whom the Forest Service may put on the wood fuel work at the request of the State Fuel Administrators. To help in organizing State wood fuel campaigns, E. H. Frothingham will soon go to Michigan and Ohio; George Lamb, to Tennessee; C. R. Tillotson, to Minnesota and Wisconsin; and W. N. Sparhawk, to Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

Washington Office Notes

E. H. Frothingham and O. M. Butler have been officially designated to represent the Service at the Pittsburgh meeting of the Society of American Foresters in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, December 31 - January 1.

Benton MacKaye will soon go to the Department of Labor, by transfer from the Service, in order to assist in the formulation of plans for colonizing soldiers after the war. Mr. MacKaye has already given a good deal of thought to the subject in the course of his work for the Service in studying the possibilities of establishing permanent forest communities.

Dr. Hawley, of the Forest Products Laboratory, is in Washington for a few days after a trip south to investigate the possibilities for the production of acetate of lime in southern distillation plants.

H. J. Hegel, of the Laboratory, is also in Washington in connection with a study of woods suitable for artillery wheels and truck bodies.

District 1

During the week ending December 17, 195 applications for enlistment in the Twentieth Engineers were received, bringing the total number for this district up to 787.

C. E. Knouf, who recently spent a short vacation at Cass Lake, Minn., has returned to the District office by way of Helena, where he put in a week inspecting timber sales on that Forest.

R. B. Adams, Telephone Engineer, attended a recent meeting of the United States Independent Telephone Association at Chicago. Exhibits of all new and standard telephone equipment in use on the most efficient telephone systems throughout the world were shown by the various companies.

The following men from this district have recently enlisted in the military service: Frank J. Cool, 25th Engineers, Ft. Wright; George Duncan, 23rd Highway Engineers, Ft. Wright; Courtland S. Winn, Jr., 20th Engineers (Forest); E. I. Shaw, Marine Corps; E. N. Pearse, 23rd Engineers; T. P. Maloy, 20th Engineers (Forest)

TIMBER LOT

(From District 1 Weekly Bulletin)

I've a dingy little office, full of cobwebs, dust and grime;
I've a set of abstract records that go back to eighteen-nine;
I can make you up a title that will open up your eyes -

Sort o' kind o' make you "leary" of "those mansions in the skies";
But the other day a farmer came meandering down our street,
He landed in my office and he knocked me out complete.

He "had a patch o' timber that the title to wan't right.
An' he didn't want no lawin' and he didn' want no fight."
He told me of his family, his corn and oats and stock.
Of the neighborhood in general, from "the store" to "half-way rock."
Every history, every romance, every reminiscent thought,
Seemed somehow to be connected with that measly timber lot.

He said in numerous other words - and incidentally on the side -
That the land was duly entered by a man named Joel Pride,
Who traded for some oxen, to a preacher - Parson Brown -
Who married a "grass widder," to some sixteen children bound.
That Brown, who rode a circuit, turned up missing one fine day,
And his widow wed a bigamist, who mortgaged the land away.

The land was sold thro' "chancery cou't" at a vendue held in June,
A greedy judgment creditor, redeemed three months too soon;
That under a scire facias ex. the land was sold again;
That one-sixteenth was then bought up by a tax fiend with a wen.
The widow of Joel Pride turned up, and claimed her "dowery right";
That she, and her that was Mrs. Brown, had a regular knockout fight.

The land went into court again, the lawyers claimed their fee;
The minor heirs of old man Brown filed an intervening plea.
Decrees were rendered and set aside, the judges went insane;
The docket was filled for forty terms, with So and So - , "Same."
Things finally came to such a pass, the parties camped on the ground;
The neighbors came and fought for lots, like they do in Cherokee
town;
The sheriff went down to drive them off, and gobbled an acre or more;
The cause went up to the U.S. courts, but was never given the floor;
Years rolled by and the squatters fought and poisoned each other's
wells.
Shot thro' windows at dead of night ('twas like living in fifteen
hells).

And then the Civil War broke out, and captured all the men;
Some were smote on the battlefield; some were sent to the "pen."
The women and children drifted away, the place was deserted by all -
All - save "Uncle Si" Hickory - dead twenty-five years next fall.
Next of kin to "Uncle Si" was his half brother's adopted son,
Who married a maniac daughter of a niece of Parson Brown.
They wrangled 'bout who was owner - divorced - he sold the land;
She brought a suit in ejectment, but a guardian took a hand;
He prayed an order to sell, lands unprofitable, et cet.
But a cross-bill filed set forth the fact that some one else
said "Nit."

The coal was mined, the top fell in, brick men stole the clay;
Eventually the hole in the ground by a cyclone was swept away.
In the interin the river rose and a submerged island came,
Got lodged against the section line, and a steamboat "jumped the
claim."
"Now, the owner of that steamboat," said the farmer unto me,
"Died o' yeller janders in the year of seventy-three,
I've bin livin' on the premises - possession - durn my skin!
Still, I'd like to know, by hookey!, who the dad-burned
title's in."

District 3

Paul G. Redington has resigned as District Forester, effective December 31, to accept a position as City Manager of Albuquerque, N. Mex. Until selection of his successor has been made the district will be in charge of F. C. W. Pooler as Acting District Forester.

District 3 (Cont'd)

The fire season on some of the Forests promises to be continuous. Guards are still on duty in the Lincoln, Carson, Tonto, and Coconino Forests.

District 4

Fire conditions in District 4 during the season of 1917 were freaky and localized. Rains during the summer were abnormal for certain zones, while other localities experienced unusually long, dry periods that brought about dangerous fire hazards.

District 4 may very conveniently be divided into four zones with a general northeast-southwest course. The first zone will embrace the La Sal, Powell, Sevier, Dixie, and Kaibab Forests. Here the weather conditions were unusually dry, but the number of fires was extremely small. The Powell had but one fire, a dead tree struck by lightning, while on the Dixie there were no fires at all.

The second zone includes the Ashley, Wasatch, Uinta, Manti, Fishlake, Fillmore, Nevada, and Toiyabe Forests. Throughout this region, there was a well distributed rainfall which made conditions subnormal.

The third zone takes in the Teton, Wyoming, Targhee, Lemhi, Sawtooth, Caribou, Cache, Minidoka, and Humboldt Forests. Throughout this zone there were long periods during which no rain fell.. However, the number of fires occurring throughout this region did not exceed the average for several years past.

The fourth zone, and the one in which our greatest fire losses occurred, covers the Salmon, Challis, Boise, Weiser, Payette, and Idaho Forests. Throughout this region, practically no rain fell from about June 10 to September 11. The grasses, weeds, and duff became extremely dry and very susceptible to rapid spread of fire. In the middle of August there were several thunderstorms and the lightning caused numerous fires at places which were very difficult to reach. On the Payette Forest, 61 fires occurred during August; 36 of these during August 16, 17, and 18, nearly every one of which it is thought were started by lightning. During these same days, there were five large fires on the Idaho Forest that called for an expenditure of approximately $50,000.

District 5

During the past week the Office of Products was consulted by a representative of the Quartermaster's Department, at Fort Mason, San Francisco, with regard to the quality of a shipment of tent stakes. The chief airplane wood inspector of the Signal Corps in this city also conferred with Products on problems of wood technology.

A. J. Jaenicke, in charge of insect control work, District 6, visited the office December 19 while en route to Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dr. E. P. Meinecke, Forest Pathologist, reports that seven out of his eight assistants have left to join the military. J. S. Boyce, Assistant Pathologist, J. W. Sheldon and E. A. Johnson, Field Assistants, were the last to leave. Dr. Meinecke is spending his annual leave assisting as legal adviser to drafted men in a local district.

District 6

As a result of a Christmas drive, 71 members of the District office and 31 members of their families are now members of the Red Cross. Ninety percent of the personnel present in the office during the drive took out membership, and the total amount contributed was $138. Mr. Kummel had charge of the drive.

District 6 (Cont'd)

In the office is a service flag bearing 12 stars representing the following men who left the District office to enter military service: Shirley Buck, K. P. Cecil, C. H. Chapman, Emil F. Dallenbach, Ben Eddy, James Frankland, William H. Gibbons, Leonard Lundgren, H. B. Oakleaf, F. W. Rase, Herbert S. Ward, Robert Weitknecht. Service flags are also displayed at several of the Supervisors' headquarters.

Thomas Nolan, E. A. Matson, and Robert Solen, were convicted of conspiracy to destroy timber on the Olympic National Forest before Judge Neterer of the United States district court at Seattle last week. Thomas H. Tracey, I. W. W. leader, who was indicted with the above men, is not yet arrested. He will be brought to trial separately, if apprehended, according to Federal officers. The men are all members of the I. W. W., and are alleged to have acted under instructions from Tracey. These men visited a logging operation on the Olympic National Forest while a serious fire was raging. A strike was in progress at the same time. Because of their efforts, one-half of the crew of forty men who were fighting the fire were induced to quit. The maximum penalty is two years imprisonment and $5,000 fine.

The District Forester has opened bids for two piling sales on the Tongass National Forest, Alaska. One sale, of 484,000 linear feet on Mitchell Bay, has been awarded to the Thlinket Packing Co., of Portland, at 1 cent per foot for piling over 75 feet and 3/4 of a cent per foot for piling under 75 feet in length. The other sale, of 788,000 linear feet of piling and some saw timber on Favorite Bay, has been awarded to the Sawyer-Reynolds Company at the same price.

The sale of block 2, in section 35, T. 22 N., R. 10 W., in the Olympic National Forest, has been awarded to the C. P. Adams Lumber Company, of Aberdeen, Washington. This block contains 1,600,000 feet of Sitka spruce and was sold for $4.76 per thousand. Except as other species are incidentally needed in the logging operation, only spruce suitable for airplane construction will be cut.

Advertisement was begun for 9,700,000 feet of Sitka spruce, 1,800,000 feet of western hemlock, and 650,000 feet of Douglas fir and western red cedar near Tsiltcoos Lake, on the Siuslaw. The prices named are $1.90 per M for spruce, $1.15 for fir, and $1.00 for hemlock. Although this stand runs heavily to spruce, it is not of a quality suitable for airplanes.

O. P. M. Goss, formerly in charge of the Forest Products Laboratory at Seattle, has been appointed manager of the kilns to be used in the big spruce cut-up plant at Vancouver, Washington.

During the past two weeks fifteen or twenty members of the District office and Forest Supervisors' offices have been detailed to county offices of the coast counties of Oregon and Washington to collect data on Sitka spruce stands and ownership. A complete card record has been made, showing every forty where this species grows in the two States. The stand is shown by species for each forty, with the ownership and address of each owner. Information as to quality, logging conditions, and other details, is also being secured and entered on the cards for each section. County officials have furnished good cooperation in opening up their records and in nearly every case freely assigning members of their force to assist in the work.

Forest Examiner Wernstedt has been detailed to the Forest Products Laboratory at Madison for special work in line with his early training in naval architecture and shipbuilding.

Scaler Everett E. Harpham and Rangers Roy Muncaster and James Hutton, formerly of the Olympic, have enlisted in the 20th Engineers. To date 950 men have enlisted for the 20th Engineers through the District Forester's office and the various Forest Supervisors of the District.

Forest Assistant H. L. Plumb, of the Okanogan, has been detailed to the District office and is working on fire studies in Operation.

Forest Supervisor N. G. Jacobson, in cooperation with the Western Forestry and Conservation Association, is compiling a fire-wardens' handbook for use in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. The purpose of this work is to provide a standard manual for fire-wardens in the four States.